



Palestinian women picket the entrance to Palestinian Police headquarters in Jericho yesterday calling for the release of relatives still imprisoned in Israeli jails. (AP)

## Arafat refuses prisoner release offer

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has refused an Israeli offer to release 240 Palestinian security prisoners on condition that they remain in Gaza until their terms are up, a Palestinian official said yesterday.

Jamil Tarifi, co-chairman of the civilian liaison committee dealing with the implementation of the Cairo agreement and a member of the new Palestinian Authority, said Arafat refused the Israeli offer after consulting with members of the authority.

According to Tarifi, the authority insists that all released prisoners be allowed to immediately return to their homes.

Hassan Asfour, a former delegate to the autonomy talks, said that Israel's condition was a violation of the Cairo agreement.

Israeli sources familiar with the negotiations confirmed the Israeli conditions for the release and said the IDF categorizes the killing of collaborators as a criminal activity, and that the men slated for release are criminals, not political prisoners.

Tarifi said that the issue would be referred to the security liaison committee. Abdel Razak Yahya, who arrived Tuesday from Jordan, has been appointed the new co-chairman of the security liaison committee, and will try to solve the prisoner dispute with his Israeli counterpart, Brig.-Gen. Yom-Tov Samia.

Samia confirmed in a press briefing yesterday that Yahya was the new co-chairman, replacing Ziad Attrash, an officer of the Palestinian Liberation Army from Algeria. Yahya,

LAMIA LAHOUD

the former PLA chief of staff, was also co-chairman of the security subcommittee during the autonomy talks.

Many of the prisoners to be released under the condition that they remain in Gaza belong to Hamas, and were not native Gazans, said Dr. Ahmed Tibi, the Israeli Arab adviser to Arafat.

The condition being attached to their release, Tibi said, would mean that "a prisoner from Jenin (120 kms. from Gaza) serving a life sentence could be obliged to spend 10 years in Gaza until he finished serving his sentence."

Representatives of the prisoners had asked Tibi to clarify whether the restrictive clause conformed to the Cairo agreement. After further investigation, he said it did not, and they should not sign any document agreeing to this condition.

The head of the Mandela Institute for Prisoners, Ahmad Sayyad, was quoted in the daily *al-Kuds* yesterday as saying that six prisoners in Ramallah and 65 in Nabulus' Jneid prison, who had signed the new release document, asked that their signatures be canceled.

The *Associated Press* adds: Several Palestinian prisoners, meanwhile, slammed the PLO yesterday, issuing a harsh letter accusing the leadership of pursuing foreign donations with greater zeal than their release.

"Where is the wise leadership for our is-

sue?" said the letter published in *al-Kuds*.

Although no leaders were singled out by name, the term leadership is generally used to refer to Arafat and his immediate circle.

It said by limiting their focus on the financial promises of the donors, the leadership had "forgotten that there are prisoners who also have the right to live in peace and stability."

The letter followed repeated statements by Arafat and other officials that he would not go to the self-rule areas and finalize setting up his government until hundreds of millions of dollars in promised aid start flowing.

The prisoners denounced the letter they were being asked to sign, committing them to remain in Gaza until their sentences ran out, in addition to another document they must sign, saying they will renounce violence and support the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement when they are released.

Some 5,000 out of over 9,000 Palestinian prisoners were supposed to be freed within five weeks of the May 4 Cairo signing.

About 2,500 have been released and the remainder were supposed to be out of jail by today, Tarifi told *The Associated Press*.

The prisoners said in their letter that their fate is in the hands of the PLO leadership. "Most of Palestinian prisoners held in the occupation prisons are convinced that the Palestinian delegation and the PLO have become jailers," the letter said.

"Where are we in this weak agreement that was signed while we are still being held?" the letter asked.

## Syria unlikely to oppose IAF hits Hizbullah targets north of zone

ANALYSIS

HILLEL KUTTLER

SYRIA is unlikely to oppose Tuesday's Israeli-Jordanian decision to accelerate joint economic development plans and to shift those talks to the region, a senior administration official said yesterday.

Noting that Damascus had not yet conveyed its reaction to the US, the official said, "I don't think they necessarily have a problem with what happened with Jordan."

"The Syrians have always made clear what's important to them is a comprehensive settlement, so progress on one track is not disadvantageous [to them]. ... They themselves made clear they're not interested in concluding something if they're the only one."

In the US view, shifting the talks was "quite logical" given the "very practical reality" of conducting such on-site work as examining potential border adjustments and building a road linking Akaba and Eilat to Egypt.

Those were two of the major items concluded during this week's fourth round of US-Israeli-Jordanian economic committee meetings.

Jordan readily acceded to the US initiative to move the talks to the two countries for the first time ever.

"It may surprise you that there was no opposition by the Jordanians" to the idea, the US official said.

Nevertheless, he added, refer-

ring to Jordan, "I don't think anyone should have any illusion. I don't think they'll cross any political threshold without considering where the Syrians are."

Because of the recent implementation of the Gaza/Jericho First Accord, as well as Secretary of State Warren Christopher's frequent trips to advance the Damascus-Jerusalem talks, Jordan "realized they weren't gaining by not moving," the official stated.

Jordan's ambassador here, Fayed Tarawne, underlined that point during a State Department press briefing Tuesday.

Asked whether he expected criticism from Syria on moving toward normalizing relations with Israel, Tarawne defended Jordan's step ahead, saying "it was due in terms of time and in terms of agenda."

The nine months since his country and Israel signed an agenda meant to lead to a peace treaty have made it "very clear here that we lag behind" the other tracks, he said.

"We are not harming anybody in the process. ... So there is no place for criticism," he said.

Even with Israel and Jordan taking their economic talks to the region - and with Syrian and Palestinian talks essentially proceeding there as well - the US still sees this city as a continued venue for the four tracks of bilateral negotiations.

"No one is suggesting they don't want to see the Washington talks take place, and when we feel it's time to call for the resumption of talks here, we will," the US official said, adding "there is no reason you can't have a set of talks that would go on there AND here."

DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jabel Shaffi region of south Lebanon yesterday afternoon during a day of intermittent long-range shooting inside and north of the security zone.

The fighting erupted in the morning when Hizbullah gunmen attacked South Lebanese Army positions in the Soujoud and Rehan areas, in the eastern sector of the zone, with mortar and machine gun fire.

There were no casualties among the SLA troops. IDF and SLA gunners blasted suspected Hizbullah targets north of the zone in response.

Later several Katyusha rockets were fired at Marjayoun in the heart of the zone for the second time in 24 hours. As on the previous occasion, the rockets exploded on open land without causing any injuries or serious damage.

IDF and SLA gunners returned fire and later IAF warplanes hit at Hizbullah bases in the Jabel Shaffi region, north of the zone. The army spokesman said the pilots reported direct hits on the targets, used by Hizbullah as launching pads for attacks on the zone, and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Reports from Lebanon said two

jets were involved in the attack and fired missiles at the target, although there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Last night, gunmen again attacked SLA and IDF positions in the Soujoud and Rehan areas with anti-tank missiles and machine gun fire. There were no reports of casualties, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Military sources assume Hizbullah and its allies might launch some kind of attack in the zone in retaliation for the kidnapping of Believers Resistance leader Mustafa Dirani and the IAF raid last week on the Hizbullah training camp in the northern Bekaa Valley.

According to Radio South Lebanon, there were reports of a build-up of Hizbullah and Believers Resistance fighters in the Iqlim al-Toufah region, north of the zone.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fayed Bouez yesterday rejected calls by some politicians to break off the peace talks with Israel.

News agencies reported that during a speech to the Lebanese Parliament, Bouez maintained such a move would play into Israel's hands.

## Cabinet undecided on Kupat Holim loan

Meets in late-night session after panel rejects NIS 400m. loan

THE cabinet, which met in special session last night, could not decide on measures to rescue the bankrupt Kupat Holim Clalit.

The cabinet is to meet again this afternoon with Histadrut secretary-general designate Haim Ramon and acting secretary general Meir Gatt, to try to find a solution.

Yesterday's cabinet session was called after the Knesset finance committee, by an overwhelming majority, declined to approve a NIS 400 million loan to Clalit, charging that the loan was a "band-aid," which would fail to resolve the health fund's problems.

The union representing most Clalit hospital workers has said workers would strike unless they receive their May salaries by 10 this morning.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh assured union representatives he would do all he could to restore the health fund's stability without putting it into receivership and to ensure payment of salaries.

While rejecting the loan, the finance committee said that if asked, it would immediately approve NIS 130m. to pay Kupat Holim employees' May salaries. However, this requires a specific government request.

The committee also asked the government see whether any of the other health funds need help paying salaries, since Leumit, Maccabi and Meuhedet have all

EVELYN GORDON and JUDY SIEGEL

put in requests for aid. However, it declined to offer recommendations on what the government should do to rescue Clalit, due to a deep split among committee members on this issue.

While some of the MKs favor appointing an operating receiver immediately, others want to double the size of the loan, so that it will last through August 5 instead of only through July 5 - four days after Ramon takes office. Ramon prefers the latter option.

"The game today was over who will be responsible for the strike [by Kupat Holim workers] when it happens," said Shmuel Avital (Labor), who ran on Ramon's list.

Only one MK - Labor's Gideon Saguy - voted in favor of the loan. Saguy said that while he favors appointing an operating receiver for the fund, a receiver would still need some cash to get him through the first few weeks.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who had argued against the loan in the cabinet, preferring the appointment of a receiver, nevertheless denounced the vote.

"It was the wrong decision," he said. "I know this money would have permitted the fund to continue operating only for a limited time ... but in the current situation, this is the only legal framework in which it is possible to give money to Kupat Holim. And the import for the fund is very grave - it won't have anything with which to pay salaries."

According to Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, the government cannot give Kupat Holim more than NIS 400m. - which is the size of the Histadrut's debt to the health fund - without violating the law against special allocations. Kupat Holim chairman Prof. Dan Michaeli echoed Shohat's concerns.

"The meaning of this is that in another day or two we will have to cut services even further," he said. "Right now the problem is salaries, but in another day or two there will be other problems."

However, committee members said they made the right decision.

"I was convinced that the plan presented to the finance committee didn't solve the problem," said Eli Goldschmidt (Labor). "It would be irresponsible of us to approve NIS 400m. today, when in another three weeks they'll ask for another NIS 300m., and two weeks after that, another NIS 200m...."

Furthermore, he noted, the NIS 400m. would not enable Kupat Holim to resume full services: it would still, for instance, have to refuse to perform elective surgery.

"Until there's enough money to implement a serious recovery program, it's a waste to even start," agreed Avraham Poraz (Meretz).

Likud MKs were delighted with the committee's decision. "The finance minister said any alternative other than a receiver is a waste of NIS 500m.," said Ariel Weinstein (Likud). "By what right does he come and ask for this waste?"

## 'Israel pledged to give Jordan strip in Arava for peace'

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL sent a message to Jordan soon after the Rabin government came to power that it would return a 360-sq. km. strip in the Arava in return for peace with Amman, officials told *The Jerusalem Post*.

The message was passed through a non-governmental third party, who is a friend of Crown Prince Hassan, the officials said.

Jordan has accused farmers in the Arava of moving the 1949 Armistice line unilaterally, and this has not been seriously disputed by Israel.

At economic talks this week in Washington, Israel and Jordan agreed to set up a commission on boundaries, security, water and the environment to tackle some of the

trickiest political disputes still dividing them. The sides aim to begin negotiations on these issues in July.

Officials in Jerusalem are satisfied that talks with Jordan are back on track, both in terms of venue and in terms of substance.

Economic talks between the two countries will move from Washington, and rotate between Eilat and Akaba beginning next month, marking the first time a neighboring Arab state currently holding peace talks with Israel has taken that step.

There are conflicting reports as to whether Jordan took the step only after consulting with Syria.

While it is widely believed that Amman will not sign a separate peace with Israel, it does demonstrate that Jordan will no longer be tightly wedded to the obsolescent, so-called Madrid framework of all Arab countries meeting simultaneously with Israel in Washington.

Israel and Jordan will discuss a variety of issues at the talks, including security and development projects. Sources insist the two sides will discuss preventing terror infiltrations, and perhaps even a limited forces zone. Projects include establishing a joint electricity grid, the possibility of a cross-border national park, and building a road from Akaba to Egypt through Eilat.



Palestinian policeman Fahed Abu Hlail stands with six stolen Israeli cars in Jericho yesterday recovered by the Palestinian Police. The six are among an estimated 120 cars stolen and believed to be in the Jericho area. Palestinian Police also raided a Gaza garage Tuesday where stolen cars were dismantled for parts. The thieves opened fire, wounding three people, saying they were intifada activists being chased by Israeli undercover units. The crowd believed them until the police showed ID cards, *'Al Quds'* reported. (Brian Hendler)

## David Frank, 'Post' Int'l editor, dies

Jerusalem Post Staff

DAVID Frank, editor of *The Jerusalem Post* International Edition, was fatally injured yesterday when the car he was driving collided with a truck in Emek Ha'ela near Jerusalem. He died on the way to hospital.

Police say Frank's car swerved into the path of the truck. The driver of the truck, who was not injured, was questioned and released.

Born in Durban, South Africa, in 1946, Frank grew up in the former Rhodesia before immigrating to Israel in 1961.

He earned a BA in psychology and English literature from the Hebrew University, an MA in English literature from York University in Toronto, and MSc in TV/Radio at Syracuse University.

For many years Frank directed his own communications company in Jerusalem, producing AV programs, training aids, and brochures, much of it for the Foreign Ministry. He was editor of the *Keshet* monthly on Israeli culture and a journalist at *The Israel Economist* and *The Jerusalem Post*.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara, two children, his parents, a brother and a sister.

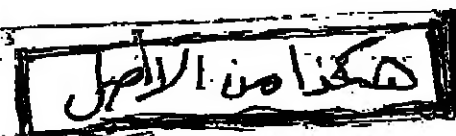
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## Praise for Palestinian Police Sarid visits Jericho

JON IMMANUEL  
and HERB KEINON

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid yesterday became the first minister to visit Jericho under Palestinian rule and praised the performance of the police there.

"In these difficult days they are doing a very good job and deserve appreciation," he said.

The Meretz minister was escorted by police chief Gen. Haj Ismail and Jibril Rajoub, head of preventive security, who has been ordered to stay in Jericho by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin because of hostile remarks he made regarding settlers and collaborators in speeches in Bethlehem and Tulkarm.

Rajoub remarked to reporters that "I don't think the decision made by the prime minister was wise. He should have read my remarks."

While visiting the Shalom Al Yisrael Synagogue, Sarid said of the visiting Jewish worshippers, many of them settlers, "I think the police relate to them with respect and I was impressed that they do not return respect. I think that there is more than a hint of provocation in that."

Sarid said he is not in favor of removing the students from the yeshiva, since under the agreement with the PLO it is allowed to remain in place.

"The provocation must be kept under control," he said, but not by changing the Cairo agreement. "I don't recommend opening the agreement anywhere, because if heaven forbid - you open it at one place, it will be completely broken open," Sarid said.

"If their presence is for prayer and study, that's fine," he added. "This is a holy place, and we honor holy places, especially synagogues. But if their presence is for political purposes, and this is a political act, we have to deal with it differently. Unfortunately, my impression from what I have seen in the past few weeks and days is that we are speaking more about a political act than a spiritual, religious one."

Several Palestinian women demanding the release of prisoners demonstrated during Sarid's visit.

Local Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein accompanied Sarid. Hussein said he would not participate in the Palestinian Authority if that would prevent him from devoting his time to Jerusalem.

## Settlers protest PLO presence in Jerusalem

HERB KEINON

SOME 50 settlers held a protest vigil last night near Orient House in eastern Jerusalem, demonstrating against the PLO's presence in the city and what they said were government lies about its intentions regarding Jerusalem.

The protesters, from Shilo and Beit El, are among dozens of families who have been camping out for three weeks near the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. The protest, in front of Orient House, passed peacefully.

In a related matter, the police dismantled tents and huts that the protesters camping out near the Prime Minister's Office tried to set up on a hill closer to his office. A few scuffles broke out when the police returned the demonstrators to the area across the street where they have the necessary permits. No arrests were made.

Settlement leaders said yesterday that some 1,000 families will likely be camped out at the site when PLO chief Yasser Arafat is scheduled to arrive in Jericho later this month. Currently there are a few dozen families there.



Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein outside the Palestinian Authority yesterday. (Stela/Harari)

## Jews stopped from praying outside Machpela Cave

HERB KEINON

TWO groups of Jews trying to pray at the plaza in front of the Machpela Cave in Hebron were turned away by soldiers and Border Police yesterday. The cave itself has been closed since the massacre there in February.

Several dozen women and children from Kiryat Arba and Jerusalem were physically removed by women soldiers when trying to pray in the plaza in the late afternoon, and the same thing happened to some 20 Ger hassidim from Jerusalem in the morning.

Baruch Ben-Yaacov, a Hebron resident who was near the cave in the morning, said that when the

hassidim - part of a larger group of 50 who came to pray in the city - began reciting psalms in the plaza, they were approached by soldiers and border policemen who told them to leave. When they refused, the border policemen used tear gas to disperse them. Ben-Yaacov said.

This account was contradicted by a senior military source, who said the hassidim left the area peacefully after being told that the plaza is a closed military area. The source said no tear gas or force of

any kind was needed to disperse the crowd.

In a related development, Kiryat Arba and Hebron settlers were furious yesterday about new directives that have reportedly been drawn up to govern prayer in the Machpela Cave when it is eventually re-opened.

Under these new regulations, yet to be approved by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, there will be complete separation in the cave at all times between Jewish and Arab

worshippers. The Yitzhak Hall, the largest hall in the cave, will - except for holidays - exclusively serve Moslems, while the smaller Abraham and Ya'acov halls will be for Jewish worshippers. In addition, it will be forbidden to bring weapons into the cave.

Arnon, who said he was told the cave will only be open to Jews during specified hours, said these regulations are unacceptable. "We will not allow them to be implemented," he warned. "These regulations are a form of collective punishment. You can't punish the whole community for the act of one man."

## Rabin takes responsibility for withholding letter

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday assumed responsibility for withholding the letter Foreign Minister Shimon Peres wrote on preserving Palestinian institutions.

In yesterday's inner cabinet meeting, the premier reportedly apologized to Police Minister Moshe Shahal for being forced to

deny the existence of such a letter.

At the same time, Rabin reportedly noted that Shahal did not technically lie, since the letter was written to late Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst and not to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, and the letter was written seven months before the Cairo implementation agreement was signed.

Senior officials privately admit that the affair has created a credibility problem for them. Peres said that the letter to Holst was un-

linked to the negotiations, but at the same time the letter was a Knesset faction that without it, the peace process in Oslo would have fallen apart. Observers also have a hard time accepting the distinction Peres made in the Knesset this week, in which he said "it was a letter, not a document."

## Goren: Every Jew commanded to kill Arafat

HERB KEINON

BASING himself on the Biblical precept "Thou shalt not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor (Lev. 19:16)," former chief rabbi Shlomo Goren has issued a halachic ruling stating that every Jew is commanded to kill PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

In the ruling circulated this week in the monthly pamphlets put out by the Rabbinical forum in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, Goren wrote: "As long as he (Arafat) declares jihad against the Jews and works to wrest Jerusalem from our hands, his status is like one who pursues in order to kill (rodef), and every Jew is commanded to kill him because of the verse 'don't

stand idly by the blood of your neighbor'."

Responding to a question whether Arafat's halachic status as rodef does not change once the government has signed an agreement with him, Goren replied: "There is no doubt that it was forbidden for the government of Israel to sign a peace agreement with the head of the murderous organization when it is clear he has not changed his way of murder and terror, and has not canceled the murderous organization's covenant calling for the destruction of the State of Israel."

Earlier this year Goren said soldiers should disobey orders to evacuate settlements, and that observant Jews should not need laws passed by the Knesset if they were not passed by a majority of Jewish

MKs. The police opened a criminal investigation of Goren following his comments on disobeying orders, but that probe was soon dropped.

In the last few weeks a number of public figures have come out in favor of Arafat's assassination, including MK Haim Barak (National Religious Party), NRP Jerusalem city councilman Shmuel Meir, and the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Sarid said Faisal Hussein told him during a tour of Jericho yesterday that Arafat is scheduled to arrive in the autonomous region later this month.

## Shahal: Orient House guards are not armed

DAN IZENBERG

PALESTINIAN guards at Orient House are not armed and do not perform police duties, Police Minister Moshe Shahal told the Knesset yesterday.

In a speech to the plenum, Shahal divulged some of the details of his meeting with Faisal Hussein earlier this week on the status of Orient House.

"Hussein told me unambiguously that the [Palestinians] forbid their security officers from carrying weapons and that if anyone is armed, it is against regulations. They even promised that if they find out about any such instance, they will inform us so that we can

take legal action."

Shahal told the plenum that police were carrying out their own investigation of the Orient House guards. "From what we know, they are not armed. If any of them is, he is breaking the law and will be put on trial."

The status of Orient House remains the same as it was since its license to operate was renewed by the government in 1988, Shahal continued. "If there was a PLO command there in 1991, it still exists today."

Shahal said he raised with Hussein the recent announcement regarding the establishment of a Palestine Bureau of Statistics in Jerusalem. "I told [Hussein] clearly that we will close any institution that has governmental aspects and is an all-Palestinian body."

Zevulun Hammer (NRP) opened the discussion with a query on whether Shahal knew of incidents in which Orient House guards had ordered Israeli drivers chauffeur visitors to the building to remove Israeli flags from their cars. Shahal said he had not received any such complaints so far.

## Permission needed for grieving parents to attend trial

THE High Court of Justice yesterday told four families whose sons died in the 1992 Tze'elim-2 accident that they must seek permission to attend the trial of the officers allegedly responsible for the mishap.

The ruling was accepted with the agreement of the State Attorney's Office. The families must ask the General Staff Military Court for permission to attend the trial.

The court, however, affirmed the families' right to re-petition the court, if the military court's answer does not satisfy them.

## Terror victims to get same benefits as war casualties do

DAN IZENBERG

VICTIMS of terrorist acts will be entitled to the same benefits as war casualties, and Remembrance Day will be expanded to include them, according to a bill passed yesterday in preliminary reading.

The bill, initiated by Hanan Porat, was approved by a vote of 25-16, despite government opposition.

The proposal stipulates that all of the services currently provided the victims of terrorism by the National Insurance Institute will be taken over by the Defense Ministry.

David Magen (Likud), who submitted a motion on the same subject, blasted the NII for its allegedly insensitive treatment of the terror victims and their families.

"After the clamor that usually follows a terrorist attack, such as the recent ones in Afula, Hadera and Gush Katif, the victims are forgotten and become anonymous soldiers," said Porat. "You find them shuffling their feet at the NII in the hope that their repeated re-

quests will be granted. You see their distress when it comes time to pay for a gravestone...and the heavy expenses involved in caring for orphans and widows."

Porat said he presented the bill to the Knesset on Remembrance Day, "when I heard interviews with terror victims who said they felt forgotten and abandoned while the nation mourned the war victims."

Magen said he had received many complaints from the victims of terrorist acts regarding the treatment they received from the NII. "I've seen letters from the NII summoning them to a medical committee or a clerk. They write on the margin of the letter: if you do not appear, your rights will be terminated. It is like the standard letter from the NII to all clients, including the veiled threat. This is the way they treat terror victims."

Liba'i said the government opposed Porat's bill because the NII was better suited to deal with many of the victims than the Ministry of Defense.

## 'Unfounded criticism' of how army helped terror victims

EVELYN GORDON

REPORTS that the army failed to quickly aid the victims of the terrorist shooting near Beit Hagai last month appear to be unfounded, the Knesset state control committee's subcommittee on military affairs stated yesterday.

Two people were killed and one was wounded in the May 17 attack. Residents of the region had charged that soldiers refused to approach the car in which the victims were located, for fear that it was booby-trapped.

Col. Meir Kalifi, the commander of the Hebron region, told the committee that when soldiers first arrived at the scene of the drive-by shooting, they immediately tried to remove the victims from the damaged car, but the driver's door was locked. They therefore had to go in through one of the back doors to release the lock on the front door.

Settlers from the region first arrived while this was happening, he said, and apparently assumed that the army had already been there for a while, but had for some reason not yet aided the victims.

The army investigation also found that it was apparently one of the settlers who first raised the suspicion that the car might be booby-trapped.

Subcommittee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) said the committee accepted the army's report without reservations. In light of its findings, he added, it seems clear that the soldiers acted properly.

Subcommittee members expressed regret for the injustice done the army in press reports about the event. MK Rehavam Ze'evi (Molodet) added, however, that the army spokesman should have responded more effectively to the accusations.

## Ben-Porat criticizes financial reporting at Israel Military Industries

ALON PINKAS

TAAS, formerly Israel Military Industries failed to publish an annual report in 1989, the last year it was a Defense Ministry subsidiary, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat concludes in a new report.

As a result, decision makers involved in turning TAAS into a government company lacked data on the size of its accumulated losses, the comptroller said.

Israel Military Industries was established in 1948 as a subsidiary of the Defense Ministry responsible for manufacturing arms and munitions. In 1975, it was modified and turned into a business whose prime activity was exports. In 1986, the cabinet decided to further transform IMI and make it a government-owned company.

The comptroller investigated the decision-making processes throughout the evolution of IMI, but does not relate to the extensive reform programs and efficiency measures initiated in the last several years.

The report elaborates on 23 issues, and concludes that from 1985 to 1989, when IMI continued to

operate as a Defense Ministry unit, its activities and forecasts were based on that period's economic realities, without incorporating the reforms recommended by the Tropp Committee, established in 1983.

Furthermore, the Finance and Defense ministries found it difficult to assess IMI's financial reports because its audits did not take the cost-of-living index into account.

Additionally, for three years after IMI began operating as a company, the Defense Ministry did not give information to either Finance Ministry or the Government Companies Authority information about IMI's losses for 1986-1989.

The report also says that the Finance Ministry, the Government Companies Authority and a ministerial committee, received information on IMI's status and its business prospects and forecasts that was based on a four-year plan formulated by IMI, which was never checked for financial soundness.

## 'Arafat to meet father of Hanit Kikos'

AMIR ROZENBLIT

PLO leader Yasser Arafat has agreed to meet with Rafi Kikos of Ofakim, whose teenage daughter Hanit disappeared last June, according to an Ofakim resident active in the continuing search for the missing girl.

Na'ima Tefilin, chairman of the Public Association for Finding Hanit Kikos, said Tuesday that Arafat has agreed to meet Kikos in Jericho or elsewhere in a few days, in answer to the father's request for assistance in finding his daughter.

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## Ashrawi launches human rights group

HANAN Ashrawi led several ranking Palestinians yesterday in formally launching a human rights organization based in Jerusalem that will track the record of the incoming self-rule authority.

In defiance of recent Israeli pronouncements that Palestinian political activity in Jerusalem be curbed, the Palestinian spokeswoman said the offices would be opened in the eastern part of the city within three weeks.

"We do not feel that we have to account to the Israelis for this Palestinian institution," said Ashrawi, known for her handling of the international media starting with the Madrid Middle East peace conference in 1991.

Ashrawi, also a negotiator, turned down an offer to serve on the 24-member Palestinian Au-

thority that will supervise autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat is having difficulty finding people to fill the board due to widespread perceptions that the Israel-PLO agreement leaves too much control in Israeli hands.

Ashrawi is eschewing a formal role in the authority in favor of The Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights.

The commission will monitor the incoming authority for conforming to international democratic standards as it creates a government.

"The goal is to ensure the rule of law and stop the abuse of authority and misuse of public funds," said Ashrawi.

Other prominent Palestinians expected to serve on the group's

14-member board include Columbia University professor Edward Said, long an advocate of the Palestinian cause in the US, and poet Mahmoud Darwish.

Organizers said it was important that a group outside all the political factions weigh Arafat's progress in implementing democracy.

"We do not know whether the PLO chairman will have democratic or dictatorial relations with the people," said Dr. Eyad Sarraj, a prominent Gaza psychiatrist and commission founder.

Arafat issued a decree last September authorizing the watchdog organization.

The group has received funding of \$180,000 for its work so far from the United Nations and European development agencies, with pledges up to \$406,000. (AP)

JP 11/150



## '900 homeless in country: half of them are alcoholics'

THERE are 900 homeless people in Israel and half of them are alcoholics, a Labor and Social Affairs Ministry official told the Knesset war on drugs committee yesterday.

The official, Sarah Ashkenazi, added that 50 percent of the alcoholics were immigrants from the former Soviet Union. She said that short-term programs to help them overcome the addiction had failed.

According to Ashkenazi, homeless alcoholics in New York are considered mentally ill and can be taken in for observation.

DAN IZENBERG

However, Edna Raphael, head of the Tel Aviv Municipality homeless unit, told the committee that in Israel the homeless are not considered mentally ill and therefore cannot be institutionalized. Many of the alcoholics are university-educated but do not speak Hebrew, she said.

Dr. Mordechai Mark, head of the Health Ministry's mental health department, said that alcoholism is considered a mental dis-

turbance but does not fall under the category of mental illness according to the law, because once the alcoholic becomes sober, he is responsible for his actions. He warned the committee not to rush into a decision to force hospitalization on alcoholics. In 20% of the cases in which alcoholics were interned against their will, the internment was found to be unnecessary, he said.

MK Assad Assad complained that the government spent NIS 3.5 million on treatment of alcoholics this year.



Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss (left) congratulates retired 'Jerusalem Post' Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish, who received the Sviatotsky Prize for excellence among parliamentary correspondents at a Knesset ceremony yesterday. (Ariel Jerolimski)

## Palestinian Police to monitor Gaza exams

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN police will monitor Gaza's school examinations next month to prevent cheating, the Palestinian Authority's senior legal official said yesterday.

Freih Abu Meidan, head of the PA's justice department, said the measure was necessary because cheating in the *lawlithi* (graduation exams) has been endemic in previous years, seriously damaging the reputation of Gaza's students.

The decision also received support from Gazans who have ob-

jected to the way the police have used their powers.

Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, a physician who was among the 400 Hamas exiles in south Lebanon, said: "I think this is the only possible way to prevent cheating. We tried to it, but last year people were intent on destroying the examinations."

However, he envisaged the police being "stationed around the

school gates" to prevent troublemakers coming in and to be ready to step in if civilian monitors reported trouble.

Jericho police spokesman Mohammed Bakr said he did not think the same system would be used in Jericho. "It is not necessary here," he said.

During the intifada, students claimed they had the right to cheat because of lost school days and local gangs intimidated the teachers.

## Parents sue mohel for damage

RAINE MARCUS

THE parents of a two-year-old boy are suing a Holon mohel for NIS 2.4 million, claiming he irreversibly damaged their child's penis during his *bris mila*.

The couple, Holon residents, filed the suit yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court.

They claim the mohel tied a bandage too tightly around the cut after the circumcision, severely wounding him. Following the operation, the boy suffered from heavy bleeding and slept solidly for two days, refusing to eat. His penis turned purple and then black, said the couple, who then took him to Wolfson Hospital.

There his injury was diagnosed by doctors as gangrene to his penis shaft and the boy was hospitalized for a week. Despite medical treatment, the penis shaft shriveled and dropped off, the suit claims.

In the child's later years, said the parents, he will be forced to undergo complicated operations in an attempt to repair the damage, and his sex life and ego will be severely harmed.

The boy's penis will never function normally, the suit claims, and no amount of corrective surgery can compensate for the suffering.

## Troubled youth get help from pet care

BATSHEVA TSUR

TEACHING problematic youth to ride horses and take care of pets has improved their emotionally well-being considerably, according to researchers from ELEM, the Association for Youth in Distress.

A group of youngsters has just completed a year-long experimental program run by ELEM at Moshav Ein Vered near Netanya, in conjunction with Reuven Ya'acov, who heads the riding school there.

"Working with the pets and riding the horses was found to be an effective means of reducing their aggression levels and their anxiety," a member of the ELEM staff said yesterday.

"The positive effects were felt socially, between the youngsters and the people in their environment, and amongst members of the group. On the personal level, their self-confidence and self-esteem increased, they became less aggressive and hyperactive, were able to concentrate better and to take on new responsibilities," the researcher reported.

An additional group of some 30 children have been recently sent to the moshav for the program. All the participants are youngsters who could not live at home and were unable to adjust to any form of hostel or institution.

Several of the youths have been invited to attend ELEM's gala fundraising dinner in Tel Aviv tonight.

## Two released in wiretap probe

RAINE MARCUS

TWO men arrested for allegedly ordering wiretapping services from private investigators Rafi Friedman and Ya'acov Tsur were released yesterday.

Yisrael Meir, a private investigator from Haifa, and factory owner Sami Levy from Meitar, near Beersheba, were arrested Sunday by detectives investigating the wiretapping case. Friedman and Tsur are accused of tapping phones and cellular phones of *Matriv* and *Yediot Aharanot* employees, and those of politicians and businessmen.

Police kept the arrest of Meir and Levy secret, only informing reporters after their remand had been extended by 24 hours Tuesday afternoon by a Petah Tikva Magistrate Court judge.

Levy is suspected of ordering wiretaps on business competitors from Friedman and Tsur's company, Agam, using Meir as an intermediary.

Police are still investigating Tsur and Friedman, but have not summoned for questioning anyone who might have ordered large-scale wiretapping.

*Matriv* publisher Ofer Nimrod, *Yediot* editors and other subjects of wiretapping were summoned last week to the National Crimes Squad headquarters to give evidence, but no one has been questioned under caution.

But police deny rumors that they are wary of investigating "those of influence and financial means" and maintain they will "question whoever we need to, when the time is right and when we have sufficient evidence."

## Second annual beach clean-up starts off Environment Week

LIAT COLLINS

THEY will be fighting the litter bugs on the country's beaches this morning when the second annual beach clean-up campaign gets underway. The campaign marks the first event of this year's Environment Week.

The main activities will start at 9 a.m. at Achziv, Haifa's South beach at Hotarim, Jasar al-Zarka, Givat Olga, Tel Aviv's Sde Dov beach, Palmahim, Netzarim, and Zikim. Beaches in other areas are also being cleaned up with volunteers organized by local authorities.

Thousands of schoolchildren, soldiers and volunteers will don plastic gloves and pick up the bags, paper, bottles, cans and other litter left on the country's shores.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, the Director General of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) Yossi Leshem and 25 foreign diplomats will be among those participating in the Sde Dov beach campaign.

Some 1,800 garbage bins and tens of thousands of recycled plastic bags have been issued to 23 municipalities along the coast by the Environment Ministry. The ministry is co-sponsoring the event with the SPNI.

Some 100 tons of garbage



Bent double for a good cause: the country's second annual beach clean-up will be held today. (Yosefa Dishar)

(13,000 bags) were collected during last year's campaign along 40 kilometers of unsupervised beaches.

According to ministry estimates, more than 18,000 tons of garbage are thrown into the sea daily. Much of this returns to the shores, endangering wildlife and creating pollution.

Other sources of pollution along the beaches come from oil leaks from tankers and industrial and municipal sewage, ministry officials note.

Meanwhile tonight, the Holon municipality kicks off its long list of Environment Week activities with a Green Evening at the town's Yad Lebanon center.

## SPNI marks 40th anniversary

LIAT COLLINS

THEY still wear shorts, sandals and sun hats, but the legs have a few more varicose veins and their heads have less hair to cover.

Forty years ago they founded the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. Yesterday, these founding members held a small gathering at the Abu Kabir Zoological Gardens in Tel Aviv to celebrate the SPNI's anniversary, and to recall the history of the non-profit environmentalist group which now has 100,000 paid members and activities involving 1.2 million people a year.

"We were nothing when we started. Just a few isolated people who nobody understood," recalls Azaria Alon, still active in the group.

"There was no such thing as environmental awareness here. Like there was in Europe. And there couldn't be. Before the state was established, there was a problem of dealing with Jewish land scat-

tered around Eretz Yisrael and afterwards it became a Zionist ideal to 'conquer the wilderness' and 'dress the land in concrete and cement,'" Alon said.

Although SPNI mythology has the battle against draining the Hula as the main incentive for the group's foundation, Alon said that for the handful of founders: "The Hula was just one more thing. I think we created the SPNI out of a completely different outlook on life not just to combat the Hula draining."

The establishment of the Carmel Park on land which, by the 1950s, had been parceled out for construction, is one of his proudest achievements, Alon said.

"[Haifa Mayor] Abba Khoushy asked us where we expected the workers to live if not in houses there, but eventually we persuaded the government to budget 20

million pounds - an incredible sum at the time - to developing the Carmel Park instead."

Alon dismisses charges that the group has become too much part of the establishment. "I don't know that it's a bad thing. I think that part of our success is that we work together with the IDF, government ministries and others. We never wanted to play alone, but to involve others."

Does he miss the days of just walking out with a hat and water bottle?

"I still do it with my sons and grandsons," Alon said. "If it was up to me I'd destroy every single all-terrain vehicle. But things have to progress. We're not against development as long as it's done wisely."

"I wouldn't want to go back to the days of living in a tent again," he added, "even though one night camping outdoors occasionally is fun."

## Driver of stolen vehicle shot by police after refusing to stop

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE are investigating an incident in which an 18-year-old driver in a stolen car was shot by a policeman yesterday morning when he refused to stop.

The incident occurred when police at a routine roadblock in the Bat Yam area ordered the driver of a car which aroused their suspicions to halt.

The car stopped and a police-

man looked into it to examine the driver and his passengers, and because he noticed exposed wires jutting out of the car's dashboard.

Two passengers attacked the policeman, punching him in the face, while the driver attempted to speed off.

When the driver refused to obey

orders to stop, the policeman fired shots at the car, moderately wounding the driver in the leg.

Two passengers escaped and police are still hunting them, while another passenger was held for questioning and the driver was treated for his wound at Assaf Harofeh Hospital.

The car had been stolen from Ashdod overnight, police said.

## First hurdle passed for bill to alter how sex crimes are handled in court

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset law committee yesterday approved a bill aimed at improving the court system's handling of sexual crimes.

The bill will now be sent to the plenum for its final reading.

One of the bill's main provisions enables the victim to testify without the accused present, if his presence is likely to cause her serious psychological harm.

To protect the accused's rights, however, he will be allowed to watch her testimony via closed-circuit TV and present questions through his lawyer.

"This represents a significant change in the court's treatment of the victim," said committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz). "The victim will no longer need to relive

the difficult experience."

The committee rejected a proposal to expand this provision to all victims of violent crime, however, after the government threatened to withdraw its support for the bill, because it would be too expensive to supply the needed electronic equipment for so many cases.

"Anyway, the original goal was to deal with sexual offenses," Zucker said. "If there is damage to the accused's rights, I don't want to expand this to all cases."

The bill also mandates that serious sex-crime cases be heard before three judges, both because of

the difficulty of determining the truth in such cases and in order to make stiffer sentences more likely.

Finally, the bill states that during sentencing, the judges must take into account the psychological damage to the victim, as determined by a study done by the state's psychological testing service. However, the victim can decline to have the study done.

The committee is also considering three other significant changes, which it will decide on between the first and second readings: extending the statute of limitations for sexual offenses, imposing a minimum sentence for such crimes, and instituting financial compensation for the victims.

## Knesset panel to vet school fees

BATSHEVA TSUR

BEGINNING with the coming academic year, compulsory payments collected from parents of pupils must have the approval of the Knesset education committee.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein yesterday told the committee that his ministry would prepare guidelines for payments and bring them before the committee members within a month. The committee will have the right to approve all compulsory payments and will be consulted on some of the discretionary payments, it was decided.

The decision followed the submission of a private members' bill by MKs Abraham Burg (Labor), who heads the committee, and MK Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), with regard to the insurance of schoolchildren.

Until now, the insurance rates were fixed by the ministry and included in the levy for "additional services" paid by the parents each year. For the past two years, the committee, which was previously consulted on the sums involved, could not veto them.

The Burg-Yahalom bill calls for abolishing the compulsory payments by the parents. Under the new arrangement, however, the ministry will give the committee the final word.

Burg said that the parents currently pay for 24% of their children's "free" education. The parents, he said, should pay for additional services only and not for basic services, which should be paid for by the state.

Yahalom noted that a small number of local authorities do not insure pupils at all, and it was therefore essential that such insurance be mandated by law.

## MK Itzik explains that finding a toilet is no laughing matter

DAN IZENBERG

THE Knesset took time out from its preoccupation with weighty matters of state yesterday to pass a bill in preliminary reading which calls for building two public toilets for women for every toilet built for men.

No one dared smirk as Dalia Itzik (Labor), the bill's initiator, explained why women need more toilets than men, and Justice Minister David Liba'i lauded her for dealing with such a delicate, but important, subject.

"I have no choice but to point out things we all know - that the way women do it is completely different from the way men do it," Itzik informed the MKs.

She said she had hesitated to present the bill because of the snickers it would arouse. "These matters always do, and the truth is it's not clear to me why," said Itzik. "Sometimes, the Knesset passes laws that the private citizen has recourse to once in his life, and sometimes not even once. And here we have a bill that involves something we use once a day or many times a day."

## Hunt continues for illegal workers

DAVID RUDGE

POLICE in the northern region are continuing to crack down on residents of the territories found staying inside the Green Line without permits and their employers.

The spokeswoman for the region said more than 200 residents of the territories had been located in various parts of the north in the past week. They were arrested and returned to the territories.

She noted that over 100 had been discovered in the Ha'amma-kim district, many of them in the

"A normal society, a civilized society, is often judged by its bathrooms," Itzik continued. Liba'i displayed a hitherto unknown side of his personality when he told the plenum he was aware of the plight of women caused by the current state of affairs.

"When I go to a concert, the opera or other functions, I always see at intermission a long line in front of the women's bathroom, whereas the men go in and out and everything seems so simple," said Liba'i. "We wholeheartedly agree to recommend" approving the bill, he said.

Other male MKs also expressed their solidarity. "The most difficult thing for a politician is to cope with mockery," said Dedi Zucker (Meretz). "We have no problem coping with hostility or opposition. The hardest thing is to deal with a look of disdain. And in that sense, MK Itzik has done a brave thing."

Apparently, the other MKs agreed. The bill passed by a vote of 16-0.

Nazareth area, recently.

Tough measures were also being taken against employers who allowed or encouraged those without permits to remain in the country. They would be brought to trial and faced heavy fines, she said.

Nevertheless, there is a feeling among police that they are fighting a losing battle because in many cases the Palestinians simply return to their work places within the space of a few days and stay overnight rather than face the weary and expensive daily travel.

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مكتبة القدس



## A night in Paris, with motorcade

PARIS (AP) — Romance perfumed the air, and the middle-aged American couple, Bill and Hillary, just couldn't resist. So there they were after midnight, strolling along the Pont des Arts, a few stolen moments together on a wooden footbridge with a view of the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral. And then off to the Louvre, its glowing glass pyramid surrounded by fountains shooting skyward. Ah, Paris! If only that 20-car motorcade weren't idling nearby. Mrs. Clinton seemed to be thinking along those lines earlier Tuesday when she recalled the days when she and her husband could wander in Paris freely. Complaining about being kept on "a very short leash," the first lady said: "I have a feeling we'll break out and do something to feel like we're out in Paris, even if it means going out at two or three a.m."

And that's just what they did, though it wasn't quite so late. The president did some more quick sightseeing in Paris before leaving for England yesterday morning, slipping out of the US ambassador's residence for an unannounced visit to the Notre Dame Cathedral. Hundreds of surprised tourists

were already inside, including a choir from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. The president posed for picture and signed autographs for a group of French school children. At about midnight, the Clintons left a gala dinner with President Francois Mitterrand, hopped into their limousine and headed for the Seine River. "They want to take a romantic stroll," said a presidential aide speaking on customary anonymity, refusing to confirm exactly where they were going until the last moment. After their walk on the Pont des Arts, the Clintons rode to the Louvre for a visit to the new Richelieu Wing. They were joined by Mitterrand, French Culture Minister Jacques Toubon, US Ambassador Pamela Harriman and I.M. Pei, the Chinese-American architect of the pyramid and the museum's interior facelift. The group of about a dozen dinner-party guests slipped away from the media lights to take their own half-hour private tour before piling back into their limousines. The Clintons reached the ambassador's residence at 1:30 a.m. to get some shut-eye before going on to England later in the morning.

## The kiwi faces danger of extinction

SIMON BRADWELL  
WELLINGTON

THE kiwi, known around the world as the emblem of New Zealand, may soon come to symbolize the threat of extinction facing many of its native birds. Kiwis — small, flightless, almost blind and virtually defenseless — are just one of the 71 of New Zealand's 161 kinds of native bird facing extinction. "There's a holocaust going on out there," said Kevin Smith, president of the Royal Bird and Forest Protection Society of New Zealand. "We are seeing species that were once accepted as common and abundant slipping away to extinction. I'm despondent about the prospects for much of the native bird population."

Despite the efforts of conservationists, a mere 60 to 100 of the Okarito brown kiwi sub-species are known to exist. An entire species, the little spotted kiwi, numbers only around 1,000. Janet Owen, Department of Conservation (DOC) Director of Protected Species, agrees that a crisis faces New Zealand's native birds. "We have the privilege of being a world leader for the percentage, and the number, of endangered species," she said. Forty-two species of native birds, including the legendary giant moa, have died out in New Zealand in the 1,000 years since man arrived in this country. There was no threat to birds before New Zealand was settled, first by Maoris who arrived from the Pacific islands in the 11th century, then by Europeans hundreds of years later. In the absence of any predators, birds like the kiwi had thrived for around 70 million years. But the settlers, as well as hunting the birds, brought with them the predatory and foliage-stripping mammals that destroyed the idyllic forever. "The fauna evolved in the absence of significant browsers and

predators. For example, the main predators of birds are mammals — rats, stoats, weasels, cats — all things that were introduced, and the fauna just wasn't adapted for it," Owen said. Many of the birds at risk are small, flightless or nocturnal and ill-equipped to combat attackers. Some, like the turkey-sized, flightless takahē, were almost wiped out by hunters and predators. The takahē is so rare it was thought to be extinct for decades before being rediscovered in 1948. Only a handful of takahē in a remote valley exist today. "The problem is compounded because we've got new pests arriving and established pests that haven't fully colonised their habitat — yet," Smith said. He is sharply critical of the lack of both government awareness and funding, which he says is hastening the demise of many species. "The amount of money for threatened species and pest control is minimal," he said. "And we're no different from any other country. DOC gets New Zealand \$100 million (\$59.4 million), the same as an average university. The defense department gets NZ\$1.4 billion (\$837.8 million)." Owen acknowledged that lack of funding has forced her department to prioritise the survival of different species. "What we are saying is that we are increasingly having to focus our resources on the highest priorities and be a lot more stringent about what we can afford to work on. "That means that we are at the moment putting more and more of our resources into the most-at-risk species. We are in severe danger of losing species unless we divert our attention to those most acutely in need, those with the greatest prospect of becoming extinct in the next five to 10 years."

(Reuters)



President Clinton walks in procession through Oxford before receiving an honorary degree. (AP)

## Oxford awards Clinton doctorate

TERENCE HUNT  
OXFORD

OXFORD University, which has produced most of Britain's prime ministers, awarded a doctorate to its first American president yesterday — a man who spent some of his student days at Oxford protesting the Vietnam War. President Clinton, at the end of an eight-day trip to lionize Allied heroes from World War II, continued that theme in his acceptance speech, saying his journey to the war's battlegrounds has "profoundly deepened my own commitment to the work the people of the United States have entrusted to me."

Clinton made no mention of his war protest activities, but an ironic reminder came with the shouts of protesters outside, some of them objecting to Clinton's meetings with Italian leaders linked to fascism. Dressed in a crimson robe, Clinton received a doctorate in civil law by diploma at the 17th-century Sheldonian Theater. Such degrees are conferred only on heads of state and members of royal families in recognition of statesmanship. About 250 Oxford students staged a sit-in demonstration outside the historic hall. Police routed him around the demonstrators, but he could hear them during the award ceremony and took note of the noise. Clinton said the protest was part of Oxford tradition. "Everything from disputes over battles to the nature of the Italian government to the character of the word 'skinhead' is being debated even as we

are here," Clinton said. Expressing appreciation once again for the valor of Allied forces in World War II, Clinton said, "Our memories of that sacrifice will be forever alive. But our obligations surely go beyond memory. "After all," he said, "when the soldiers of D-Day broke through at Normandy, when the sons and daughters of democracy carried on their struggle for another half century, winning the Cold War against the iron grip of totalitarian repression, they fought not for the past but for the present and the future."

Oxford was the last leg of a trip commemorating the 50th anniversary of D-Day with ceremonies at American cemeteries in Normandy, Italy and Britain. Clinton studied politics at Oxford's University College as a Rhodes scholar from October 1968 to June 1970 but did not complete work on a degree. He received a doctorate in civil law by diploma at the 17th-century Sheldonian Theater. Such degrees are conferred only on heads of state and members of royal families in recognition of statesmanship. The degree citation — in Latin — praised Clinton as "a doughty and tireless champion" of peace and a foe of gridlock. "He has a powerful collaborator in his wife," especially in health reform, it said. Two fellow Rhodes scholars in

his administration, Labor Secretary Robert Reich and presidential adviser George Stephanopoulos, accompanied him. After the nostalgic visit, the president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton were flying back to Washington. It was at Oxford where Clinton wrote a university ROTC director back home in Arkansas in appreciation "for saving me from the draft." For weeks, White House aides have recognized that Oxford could undercut the political boost Clinton was sure to get from the D-Day celebrations. At one point, the campus visit was scheduled to occur two days before the 50th anniversary of the Allied invasion, but that would have disrupted the smooth flow of celebrations. Clinton remains unapologetic about trying to avoid the draft. "I still think I was right on that," he said in an interview Sunday night on the aircraft carrier USS George Washington off the Normandy coast. He said his generation's angst about Vietnam was particularly painful "because we all loved the military so much."

It was while he was attending Oxford, in April 1969, that Clinton received a draft-induction notice. He signed up for an ROTC officer-training program at the University of Arkansas for the following summer to gain a draft deferment. He never showed up for it, returning instead to Oxford for a second year. (AP)

## CIA denies protecting ex-Nazi officer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Allegations that the CIA shielded from prosecution a former Nazi officer accused of ordering the murder of 86 American prisoners of war in Belgium in 1944 are "groundless and outrageous," the agency says. The accused man, retired Gen. Wilhelm Mohrke, 83, is living in western Germany and is on the US Justice Department's list of suspected Nazi war criminals barred from entry to this country. He also is wanted for war crimes by Britain and Canada. The ABC television network reported Monday that Mohrke provided information about fellow Nazi officers to the CIA after his release from prison in the former Soviet Union in 1955. In exchange, the CIA gave him an unspecified sum of money and a guarantee that he would not be prosecuted for alleged involvement in World War II atrocities. "The ABC allegations are unsubstantiated," CIA spokesman David Christian said. "It's totally groundless and outrageous."

Christian told The Associated Press a full search of records and consultations with key agency officers turned up no indication that the agency had any link to Mohrke. The Justice Department believes there is at least circumstantial evidence that Mohrke had a role in mass murders of allied soldiers in Europe. In December 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, the men of Battery B of the 285th Field Observation Battalion encountered a German SS tank division commanded by Mohrke. The Americans surrendered and were herded into a field at Malmédy where the Germans opened fire on them with tank guns. Forty-three men survived; 86 died. Meanwhile, in Rome, authorities asked Argentina yesterday for the extradition of a former Nazi SS officer accused of taking part in the massacre of 335 civilians in Rome in 1944. The request, relayed by the foreign ministry, for former Nazi

Capt. Erich Priebke was received by Argentine diplomats in Rome and is covered under an extradition treaty between the two nations, said Marco Villani, a Foreign Ministry spokesman. There was no immediate timetable on how soon Priebke could be extradited if the request is approved. But Villani said he "did not foresee any problems."

"We have great trust in the Argentine government," said Umberto Gambino, a Justice Ministry spokesman. "Our relations with them are good."

Priebke, 80, has admitted to reporters that he had a role in the slayings, which were ordered by Nazi occupiers in retaliation for a bombing that killed 33 German soldiers. Those executed by the Nazis included some priests and dozens of Jews — none of whom apparently had any link to the attack on the Germans. The massacre site was in an area known as the Ardeatine near the early Christian catacombs. Priebke told Argentine media he shot one civilian and was only following orders from Adolf Hitler, who demanded that 10 Italians die for every German killed. In May, Priebke told an ABC-TV news program that he was present at the massacre but did not kill anyone. Priebke is under house arrest in Bariloche, about 1,760 kilometers (1,100 miles) southwest of Buenos Aires, where he has lived under his real name since the 1950s. It was not immediately known whether he would fight extradition, but Priebke has complained of health problems and depression. Italian prosecutors seek to charge Priebke with crimes against humanity, which could place him behind bars for the rest of his life if convicted. Italy does not have the death penalty. Priebke was second-in-command of Herbert Kappler, an SS colonel who was sentenced to life in prison for the Ardeatine massacre. He escaped from an Italian prison in 1977 and died in primary a year later.

## Fleeing Bangladesh writer eludes police

DHAKA (Reuters) — Bangladesh feminist writer Taslima Nasrin, facing arrest for criticizing Islam and its holy book, the Koran, yesterday continued to elude a nationwide police dragnet. "But we believe she is still within the country and is unlikely to escape in the long run," an officer with the detective branch said of the physician turned writer, who is in her early 30s. He denied allegations by fundamentalist groups that Nasrin had bribed her way past police and out of the country. Seven thousand orthodox Muslims rallied in the Bangladesh capital yesterday to protest her continued freedom and criticized the Western media for giving her such prominence. "She has not only hurt our religious feelings but conspired against the sovereignty of Bangladesh by joining hands with anti-Muslim forces in India," Moulana Matiar Rahman Nizami, leader of Jamaat-e-Islami party, said. "And the Western media has been giving her undue importance and played up a virtually unknown writer into global prominence."

His followers chanted demands for punishment of Nasrin and denounced police for taking so long to arrest her, witnesses said. A mandatory "no-bail" provision attached to the order for her arrest probably encouraged Nasrin to stay in hiding, her friends said yesterday. The order issued by Dhaka's chief metropolitan magistrate on

Saturday was a "non-bailable warrant of arrest," which means that if she is captured she will remain in police custody until after her trial. Police yesterday arrested two editors of a popular Bangladesh daily for allegedly distorting writings from the Koran, police said. Toab Khan and Borhan Ahmed, advisory editor and executive editor, respectively, of the Bengali newspaper Janakantha, were taken into custody for offending Muslim sentiments. "The two have been detained... and will not be granted bail," police said. Islamic fundamentalists attacked the newspaper's office three days ago for allegedly supporting Nasrin. They demand capital punishment for Nasrin. The Islamic Constitution Movement urged the government to try Nasrin for an "act of blasphemy" and give her exemplary punishment so that "no other devils like her would dare to speak against the religion of Prophet Mohammad in future."

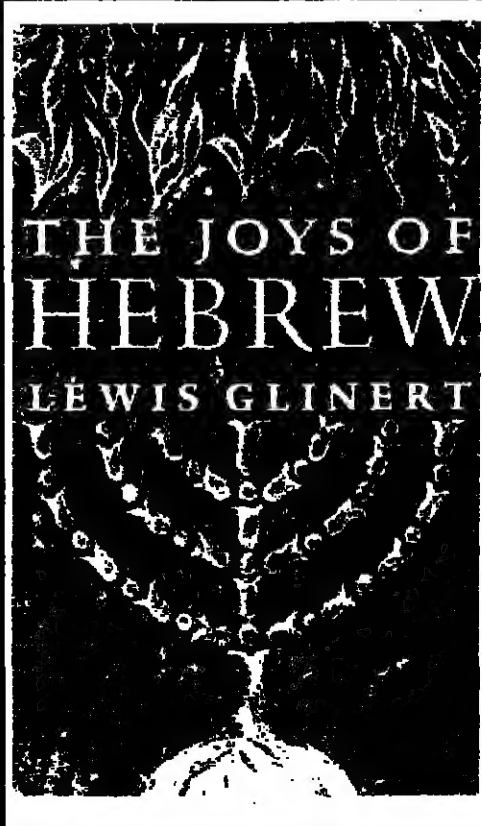
Nasrin was quoted in an Indian newspaper recently as saying the Koran should be "revised thoroughly." "No man or woman of progressive thinking should have a religion," she has been quoted as saying. "And marriage is nothing but slavery for women."

While criticizing Nasrin for her "unguarded comments," some groups warned that fanatic Muslims might use the campaign against her to create political violence and gain from it. (Reuters)

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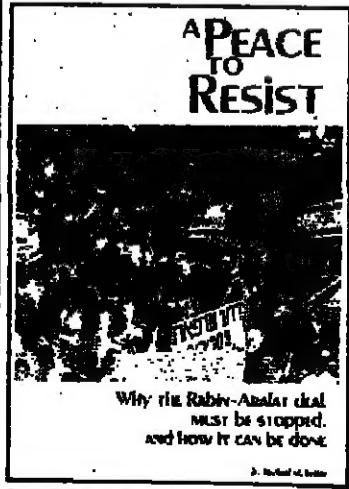


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## Bosnian factions agree to cease-fire

GENEVA (Reuters) - Bosnia's warring factions agreed yesterday to halt hostilities for a month from tomorrow so United Nations peacekeepers can conclude a more durable truce.

The accord, signed by Bosnia's Moslem-Croat alliance and their Serb foes in the form of a simple statement, was the first Bosnia-wide accord in more than two years of war.

But it fell far short of the ambitious four-month cease-fire with separation of forces that had been sought by UN envoy Yasushi Akashi in three days of negotiations in Geneva.

"What we got was certainly less than what I tried to get at the outset, which was for at least a four-month agreement on cessation of hostilities," Akashi told reporters.

"But under the circumstances such a more ambitious undertaking was not within reach."

The one-page document was signed first by leaders of the Moslem-Croat federation and then, after pressure from Akashi, by the Serbs.

It said that "as a first step" both sides agreed not to engage in any offensive military operations "or other provocative actions of any kind" for one month starting tomorrow at 12 noon.

"This period of military stabilization is required in order to give time for reflection leading to a resumption, within the next several days, under UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) auspices, of negotiations on a comprehensive cessation of hostilities," the statement said.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, his war aims in Bosnia long satisfied, had accepted Akashi's original proposal of a four-month "cessation of hostilities" to allow time for an overall political settlement to be concluded.

But Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic, a Moslem, and his Croat ally Kresimir Zubak resisted a long cease-fire because they said it would freeze Serb military gains on the ground.

The truce yesterday caught residents of Sarajevo by surprise, with most expressing skepticism the accord would lead to lasting peace.

"I did not expect a cease-fire, nor do I trust the Serbs, nor would I ever trust them for one moment," said a Moslem street vendor, Mustafa Kaukija, 45.

"I just came off duty on the front line on Trebevic (a mountain overlooking the city) last night and the Serbs shot a civilian up there in the evening - an innocent guy just out for a walk near his home."

They were also afraid that a four-month truce would lift the pressure on Bosnian Serbs to concede territory in parallel political negotiations and would effectively prevent them from recapturing territory if the negotiations fail.

Karadzic told reporters after the signature that Serbs had accepted a "moderate result" for the sake of peace and criticized the international community for not putting pressure on his Moslem foes.



Philippine Marines fire mortars at the stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf extremist group in Patikul, Jolo province yesterday. (AP)

## Philippine Moslem rebels kill 15 Christian hostages

CAMP AL GADDAFI (Reuters) - Moslem extremists shot dead 15 Christians in the southern Philippines yesterday and bombed a crowded shopping center, apparently in reprisal for a military offensive against their bases.

Police said the 15 were among a group of 22 people kidnapped at gunpoint on yesterday morning on Basilan Island in the Sulu Archipelago, 950 km south of Manila.

A 16th man survived the massacre and was in hospital with gunshot wounds in his back and legs.

"I played dead and the poor men were sprayed with bullets," the survivor, Rene Abellana, said in a radio interview. "They thought I was dead."

The four kidnappers are still holding six hostages, five women and a Roman Catholic priest, at a hideout in the mountainous interior of Basilan.

Police believe the kidnappers are members of the Abu Sayyaf group, which is currently under heavy attack by a combined army-marine force on the nearby island of Jolo.

Three people were killed and 28 injured when a bomb went off just outside a shopping centre in General Santos City on the main southern island of Mindanao.

Local government officials said they had earlier received intelligence reports warning them of possible reprisals by Abu Sayyaf.

Police said the kidnapping began when the four gunmen stopped a group of vehicles carrying 90 people. They divided the Christians from the Moslems by making everyone recite a Moslem prayer.

They at first took 52 captives but, for reasons still unclear, freed 30 of them.

The killings took place three hours after the victims were first seized as they were pursued by police and soldiers.

Police and government officials say they do not know why the gunmen opened fire.

Security forces were last night pursuing the kidnappers, who are believed to include a cousin of Abu Sayyaf leader Abdurajak Janjalani.

The military yesterday said Janjalani was himself a captive of the family of one of his lieutenants who was killed in the fighting on Jolo Island.

Lieutenant-General Orlando Soriano, Southern Command chief, told reporters the family detained Janjalani because they blamed him for the death of Radullan Sahiron.

They also wanted to claim the \$55,000 bounty on Janjalani's head but were afraid to turn

him over to troops because of their own links with the rebels.

Soriano reassured Sahiron's relatives they would not be harmed if they turned Janjalani in.

Government forces launched an assault yesterday against a new rebel stronghold on Jolo after first pounding it with mortars.

"A large number of Abu Sayyaf is still holed up in (the new stronghold) and we are moving closer to wipe them out," Marine Colonel Posciano Millena told reporters.

He said 60 or 70 rebels were in the new positions, a network of bunkers in forested hills five km from the main Abu Sayyaf base, Camp al Gaddafi.

The camp, named after Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, was occupied by government forces on Monday after heavy fighting.

"We met strong resistance at first all round before they retreated," Major Daniel Buscato told journalists.

Forty guerrillas and eight soldiers have been killed since the assault began last Friday.

Abu Sayyaf has repudiated the mainstream Moslem rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which is now negotiating with the government for greater autonomy for Moslem regions.

REBELS and government soldiers exchanged heavy shell fire in the capital, a bad omen for the latest round of peace talks set to open yesterday at the UN compound.

The fighting lasted through the night and intensified yesterday morning in the southwestern neighborhood of Nyamirambo, UN spokesman Pierre Mehu said.

"The shelling has been pretty constant this morning," said Mehu. He did not have any casualty figures, but said the neighborhood was one of the few parts of the city that still had a sizeable civilian population.

Meanwhile, pro-government militiamen shot and wounded a French journalist in the Rwandan capital Kigali yesterday during an attack on a refugee camp, a witness said.

An official of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the journalist, who works for Paris-based private television agency CAPA, had been wounded in the hip. His name has not been released.

Khalil Aitout of French medical charity Pharmaciens sans Frontieres said the journalist was shot when the gunmen opened fire on a church building where several people of all ages were sheltering from militia gangs on the streets.

Most of the city's residents have fled the capital to escape the civil war and ethnic massacres that have left an estimated 200,000 dead nationwide in the past two months.

The rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, led by the minority Tutsis, have surrounded the beleaguered government troops, made up of the majority Hutus. The rebels now appear to be waging a war of attrition against the government forces rather than attempt an all-out assault in Kigali.

Both sides agreed to send delegations to the UN compound yesterday for cease-fire talks mediated by Maj. Gen. Romeo Dallaire, a Canadian who commands the 450-then UN force in Rwanda.

The most pressing matter is the cease-fire. In addition to the battle for Kigali, there is heavy fighting 50 km to the southwest in Gitarama. The provisional government has retreated to the town, and the advancing rebels are on the outskirts.

The United Nations also wants safety guarantees from both sides so it can resume flights into Kigali and evacuate thousands of displaced people sheltered in various locations around the city.

An estimated 2 million of Rwanda's 8 million people have been displaced and aid agencies are warning that the country could soon suffer widespread starvation unless food supplies begin to reach the shattered country.

Most aid groups have withdrawn, citing the unsafe conditions and have not said when they will return.

The warring factions also want to settle disputes about their respective radio stations. The rebels say the government continues to put out inflammatory propaganda that will encourage more civilian massacres.

Government-trained Hutu militias have been blamed for most of the carnage that erupted after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed April 6 when his plane was apparently shot down.

Meanwhile, the government forces say the rebels are using their broadcasts to claim fictitious battlefield victories.

Previous talks have not achieved any major breakthroughs and prospects for success yesterday appeared slim.

In another development, the International Committee of the Red Cross announced that it helped evacuate more than 600 children, most of them orphans, from the southern town of Butare to the neighboring country of Burundi. The group had come under attack a month ago and 21 children were killed.

The Red Cross said it wants to evacuate children from several additional sites around the country.

## UN envoy tells rival Yemeni armies to stop fighting

SANAA (Reuters) - UN trouble-shooter Lakhdar Brahimi arrived in Yemen yesterday with artillery battles raging outside the southern stronghold of Aden and told the rival armies to stop fighting and start talking.

"I arrived here with instructions from the (UN) secretary-general that we have no preconceived ideas and that we come here with an open mind and with the very strong desire to help our brothers in Yemen solve their problems," Brahimi told reporters on arrival in the northern capital Sanaa.

"Maybe we have one preconceived idea, and I have no hesita-

tion in proclaiming it... the fighting, the infighting between brothers must stop, and must stop now and leave the way to resume discussions, negotiations, dialogue," he added.

Artillery and rocket battles shook the outskirts of Aden, which southern leaders proclaimed their capital after repudiating the four-year union between traditionalist North Yemen and the secular and former Marxist South Yemen on May 21.

Witnesses said northern planes dropped bombs twice on Aden's southern refinery, and a tanker anchored off Aden reported a

warplane trying to bomb it. Southern officials said 18 people were killed and 23 wounded when northern forces shelled the village of Dar Saad outside Aden late on Tuesday. Dozens of distraught civilians walked or drove camels and carts south yesterday to the shelter of Aden, a mountainous peninsula that juts south into the sea.

Fighting began on May 4, with northern forces of President Ali Abdullah Saleh trying to smash what he sees as southern rebels led by his former vice-president Ali Salem al-Baidh.

Brahimi was sent by UN Secre-

tary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali under a Security Council resolution which called for a Yemeni ceasefire, a return to negotiations and a fact-finding mission to assess prospects for dialogue.

A brief northern-declared ceasefire collapsed on Tuesday with each side accusing the other of breaking it. Top southern official Haider Abu Bakr al-Attas has called for UN observers but Saleh

said this would be absolutely rejected.

"Observers will be an interference in our internal affairs and this is unacceptable to us," he told a news conference.

Ibrahimi, Algeria's former foreign minister and a veteran mediator, may also find it tough to start a dialogue between Baidh and Saleh.

"There is no dialogue with those who led the country to war," Saleh

said. "They will have either to surrender or to leave the country."

He did say though that he was ready for dialogue with what he called "unionist" elements in Baidh's Yemen Socialist Party.

Baidh said in a television interview: "All issues are open for discussion... The important thing now is to talk about stopping the fighting. We can then discuss any other topic."

## Twelfth body found in 'House of Horror' case

LONDON (Reuters) - British police said yesterday they had found a 12th set of remains in the "House of Horror" serial killings.

The remains - little more than bones and teeth - were found in a remote field in Gloucestershire, western England, where searches have been digging for two months. A Gloucester builder, 52-year-old Frederick West, has been charged with 11 murders in the case, including those of his former wife and two of their daughters. His present wife Rosemary has

been charged with nine murders. Most of the badly decomposed bodies were found in the garden or under the floors of the house - quickly dubbed the "House of Horror" by newspapers - where the Wests lived in and around their children. Others were found in a previous residence or in the field. Police spokeswoman Hilary Allison said a government pathologist had confirmed the remains were human. He was now working to try to identify them.

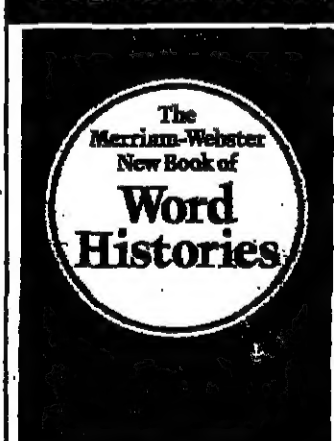
Local residents say they believe the remains are those of Anna McFall, 22, who worked as a nanny for the Wests.

Allison said this could not be immediately confirmed. Police were starting to dig a short distance away in the same field, known as Finger Post field.

Police, who started digging in the Wests' home in February, virtually excavated the entire garden before they finished.

Prosecutors say they may be ready to set a trial date when the Wests appear in court on June 30.

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## Russian prisoners free some hostages

MOSCOW (AP) - Armed prisoners have released some of the 17 hostages they took earlier yesterday at a pre-trial detention center in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg, news reports said.

The three prisoners let the women, children and the elderly among their captives go despite the refusal of police to heed their demand for vodka and beer, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

It was unclear how many of the hostages were freed, but an earlier report said nine of the 17 were women. The hostages are relatives of prisoners, who were let out of their cells for a regular visit.

One of the four gunmen was killed and three police were wounded in earlier unsuccessful attempts to free the hostages at the jail in the center of the large Ural Mountains city, ITAR-Tass reported.

## South Korean president holds top security meeting

SEOUL (AP) - President Kim Young-sam sent his foreign minister to China yesterday and held urgent consultations with national security officials as pressure mounted to impose sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear program.

"International sanctions appear inevitable," Kim told a meeting of top security officials, the first such gathering since he took office early last year. "The absolutely urgent task facing us is to halt North Korea's nuclear weapons development at whatever cost."

North Korea, however, showed no sign of backing down.

Later yesterday, Kim telephoned Russian President Boris Yeltsin to gain assurances of Moscow's support for possible UN sanctions on the Communist North, officials said.

In the 20-minute telephone conversation, Yeltsin promised that Russia would cooperate in efforts to win UN Security Council approval for a sanctions resolution

against the North, chief presidential spokesman Choo Don-shik said.

Kim met Yeltsin in Moscow last week for wide-ranging discussions, including the North Korean nuclear issue. Both leaders voiced support for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

Meanwhile, South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo flew from New York for a hastily arranged visit to Beijing as the Chinese government reiterated opposition to sanctions as a means of prying open North Korea's nuclear facilities for inspection. China, as North Korea's only major ideological ally, is believed to have some influence with Pyongyang. Any sanctions also would be difficult to enforce without China's cooperation.

In Vienna, where the International Atomic Energy Agency has been meeting on the nuclear standoff, a North Korean envoy accused the United Nations of distorting facts.



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## Wishful thinking

**P**RESIDENT Hashemi Rafsanjani is one of the few leaders of hardline Middle Eastern states who is treated with more indulgence abroad than the policies of his country would seem to warrant. While Iran, the state, is castigated for its virulent fundamentalism, overseas terrorism, and domestic human rights abuses, Rafsanjani escapes becoming the personification of its evils in the way Muammar Gaddafi is Libya, Saddam Hussein is Iraq, or Ayatollah Khomeini was revolutionary Iran.

Seen as a pragmatist when he can get away with it, Rafsanjani is credited at least with keeping Iran from being worse than it could be if the rabid mullahs and Revolutionary Guards gained full control. Rafsanjani "the pragmatist" has been in the news again this week with another spate of statements, quickly dubbed "moderate" by the international media.

At a Tehran news conference on Tuesday, Rafsanjani did face unusually sharp questions from domestic journalists and gave cooler answers than the constant stream of anti-Western, anti-Arab and anti-Israeli tirades that issue daily from Iran's broadcast media would lead one to expect. Rafsanjani was reelected a year ago for a second five-year term as president, but with a substantially reduced majority. He has been under increasing pressure from strict Islamists for his relatively open policies and for the poor state of the economy. So, while the news conference was an obvious test of home attitudes, there was the usual Rafsanjani demonstration of "moderation" for foreign consumption.

This was most clear in his attitude to Britain, a week after a diplomatic spat over Tehe-

ran's alleged contacts with the IRA. Rafsanjani firmly rejected extremist calls for a break in relations, citing the importance of trade and the presence of Iranian students in Britain. "We will not benefit from cutting ties with any country," he said. He vigorously defended trade ties with the United States - "How would we maintain our Boeings," he snapped at a hostile reporter. "Where will our military find spare parts? Are you saying we shouldn't sell oil to the United States?" He added that if Washington moved forward on the issue of Iran's seized assets, "we will react seriously." On the Middle East, he said that while Iran remains opposed to the PLO-Israeli agreements as they stand, "we do not wish to intervene in practice and physically disrupt the peace process."

This is certainly a different tone from the rantings in Iranian mosques every Friday. Sadly, although Rafsanjani is elected president of his country, the comments are probably no more significant than if they were made by a reasonable private citizen. Many analyses of his news conference failed to point out the most significant fact - most of the journalists he faced were hostile and extremist in their questioning. Those optimists in the West or Israel may be right when they believe that if Rafsanjani had a free hand and unfettered power, he might be a man we could do business with. But he is a voice in the fundamentalist wilderness and if anything, the signs are that his influence in Iran is waning, not increasing. It would therefore be a grave mistake to allow wishful thinking about a pragmatic Rafsanjani to drop our guard against the onward march of Iranian terrorism and subversion.

## The Redgrave scandal

**T**HERE are undoubtedly those who will applaud both the Haifa Theater invitation to British actress Vanessa Redgrave and her acceptance of it. The rationale for the appearance on an Israeli stage of a life-long Israel-hater is that it is a sign of peace, a function of the yearned-for rapprochement with Yasser Arafat and the PLO.

Advocates of the agreement with the PLO like to say that "peace one makes with enemies." They must assume - not without reason - that if the prime minister can shake the hand of an arch-murderer, there is no reason not to share a stage with a virulent enemy propagandist who has shed no blood herself.

It was this kind of thinking which must have prompted Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to accept a "Pax World Peace Award" on his recent visit to Washington. The award was sponsored by Arab and radical left-wing organizations with a record of unremitting hostility to Israel, dedicated to discrediting Israel's friends in the US. The Haifa Theater cannot be expected to be more selective about the enemies it associates with than the country's foreign minister.

In emulating Peres, the Haifa Theater could not have found a more driven enemy than Redgrave. As *Ma'ariv* commentator Yosef Lapid put it yesterday, Redgrave's hatred for Israel is unprecedented even among the West's radical leftists. For decades, the famous English actress has missed no opportunity to condemn Israel in terms that would do the Nazi *Sturmer* proud. She has opposed, with ruthless consistency, the very existence of the

State of Israel. There is only a small step between her poisonous preachings and incitement to genocide.

Redgrave has supported not only the PLO but Libya's Muammar Gaddafi. On paying a condolence call on Abu Jihad's widow she said, "Abu Jihad's sacred blood reminds us of the crimes of the Zionist nation." She financed a PLO propaganda film which accused "the Zionist gangs" of the Sabra-Shatilla massacre. She lost a libel suit against the *London Observer*, which defined her leftist party as "terrorist." And she participated in demonstrations for Saddam Hussein during the Gulf War.

But Redgrave is not only a venomous political propagandist. She is also an artist who has a right to perform wherever she is booked. When she was asked by the Boston Symphony to appear with that distinguished organization, public protests persuaded the management to withdraw from its contract with her. But there is no law against anyone wishing to engage her. This is what freedom of speech and employment is about.

Indeed, had the Haifa Theater been a private organization, the only thing one could have wished is that the public would vote with its feet and avoid her performances. But the Haifa Theater is not a private institution. Like all theater groups in Israel, it is supported by taxpayers' money. That ordinary citizens - who have nothing to say in the matter - should be forced to subsidize a person who more than anyone today incarnates hatred for Israel is nothing short of a moral and national outrage.



## Serbia, an ally spurned

TEDDY PREUSS

**T**HE Serbs do not distinguish between those who help the Muslims in Bosnia for humanitarian reasons and those who support them and the Croats for political-military motives. They feel that whoever supports their enemy is also their enemy.

But this is not necessarily true: Israel, for example, has taken in Muslim refugees from Bosnia - but not out of political sympathy for them. And Israel certainly has little sympathy for the Croats.

Even though they feel friendly toward Israel, the Serbs are angry because we traditionally reciprocated that friendship, being similarly opposed to Muslim expansionism and having been the main victims of the Nazis. The way they see it, we were victimized by the Germans and they by the Croats, so why are we rejecting their outstretched hand?

The facts are correct, but the analysis is off. It was Yugoslavia that broke off relations with Israel in the wake of the 1967 war. After the peace with Egypt, Israel argued that it made no sense for Belgrade to continue to refuse to reopen its embassy in Tel Aviv when Egypt itself had opened a diplomatic mission there. After all, it was out of friendship for Egypt that Marshal Tito had cut ties with Israel.

We repeated the argument after China, Russia, India and the ex-Communist countries established ties and flew their flags in Tel Aviv. But, in May 1990, the then Yugoslav foreign minister told me in his first interview with an Israeli newspaper: "What's the hurry?"

My reply was that time was of the essence, since it might soon be too late. But Budimir Loncar did not budge: "Everything in its own good time," he declared.

And when the Serbs eventually thought the time had come - by now, Yugoslavia had become a corpse - international sanctions had begun to be applied against their aggression, and Israel, despite its sympathy, could not spite the world.

The Serbs say: "True, the 1967 severance of relations was a mistake, arising out of Tito's caprice and because of the Croatian-Slovenian mafia that controlled the

politburo and central committee. But we Serbs were not part of this [not an altogether correct claim, though the then foreign minister, part Jewish, part Serb, opposed Tito's stand].

And, they continue: "We always felt sympathy for Israel [this is largely true]. So, all right, we erred; but why do you have de-

**Serbs want to know why Israel is rejecting their outstretched hand**

ings with the Moslems, who are your declared enemies [partly true] and with the Croats, who are neo-Nazis, and whose leader is an antisemite and a fascist who denies that the Holocaust occurred [definitely correct]?"

BUT WE contend: "Just a moment, what do you mean by saying we are befriending the Croats and their president Tudjman? We have refused to establish relations with them because of their Nazi past and their revolting leader. And, I venture to surmise, Israel will not have any ties with them, at least not before it can open a mission in Belgrade."

"There is something in what you say," they respond. "But why does the highly influential world Jewish community identify with the Moslems and pat Tudjman on the back? In Paris, the philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy [they really should have said 'pseudo-philosopher'] and a majority of the Jews, including Andre Glucksmann, Marek Halter and others, set up a political party - since dissolved - to back the Bosnian Moslems."

"After all, the Moslems are receiving weapons from extremist Arab and Islamic countries, and the Mujaheddin from Afghanistan are fighting in their ranks. And this in addition to the pan-Islamic

and anti-Jewish book their leader, Ilyazbegovic, has written!"

I reply: "I, too, am not sure the leftist French 'salons' [which most of France sneered at] have acted wisely. Regis Debray, a former violent leftist who was jailed for years in Latin America for cooperating with Che Guevara, demanding that they should go and fight in Sarajevo if the fate of the Bosnians was so precious to them. But they see the humanitarian side of the tragedy."

"Well," they respond, "in that case, what about the American Jews? Jewish historians in the US are suddenly claiming that we helped the Nazis and were also antisemitic. Of course, there were collaborators in our midst, just as there were among the Croats, who helped the Nazis. In any war, you'll find traitors, quislings, like in Norway. The historians who 'discovered' we were pro-Nazi and antisemitic would say the same about Norway and its resistance movement!"

"And that's not all: when the US Holocaust Memorial Museum was inaugurated in Washington, we were astounded to see President Tudjman among those invited and standing next to President Clinton."

"Many of that man's party leaders deserve to stand trial for the crimes they committed against you and against us during World War II. But suddenly he gets invited to a Holocaust memorial! This man has written the most antisemitic book since the fall of Nazism. He sent the bodies of his Nazi fighters to the Croatian death camp Jasenovac, burying them alongside their victims."

"And he has changed street names honoring victims of Fascism and forbidden the screening of anti-Nazi films in Croatia. And the financially corrupt hand of this Fascist has shaken the hand of no less a figure than 'Mr. Holocaust,' Eli Wiesel!"

I wanted to make a pointed reply, but could think of nothing convincing to say.

The writer, a senior journalist with the daily *Davar*, returned recently from a trip to Serbia.

## Color blind

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

**P**ORGY and *Bess* is the greatest American opera ever written. But it has one flaw: only black singers can perform it on the stage.

Many black singers believe that composer George Gershwin made this condition in order to give them a break. But this is not true.

While many black opera singers did indeed launch their careers with performances in *Porgy and Bess*, the Jewish-American composer had nothing to do with this casting policy. It was his brother Ira Gershwin, who wrote the libretto to *Porgy* together with playwright DuBose Heyward, who believed that only black singers could do justice to this work.

*Porgy and Bess* depicts the life of blacks in South Carolina in the 1920s. It is an opera about them and their music. But does that mean only blacks can give this masterpiece its true artistic dues?

If we accept the premise that no white singer, no matter how talented, can do justice to Gershwin's opera because it is about blacks, then we must also accept that no Caucasian soprano can sing *Madama Butterfly*, no white tenor can sing the Moor Otello in

**It's time to open 'Porgy and Bess' to non-black performers**

Verdi's opera, and no Western soprano can sing the Chinese princess Turandot.

If only blacks can do justice to *Porgy*, does it follow that only whites can do justice to *Fidelio*, *The Magic Flute*, *Don Giovanni* and many other operas about white characters?

**BLACK OPERA** singers, as well as theater actors, had to struggle over the years to gain acceptance. Initially, they were barred from the theater because of their skin color. Even today there are opera and theater directors who will not cast blacks in certain productions.

Sir Peter Hall, for example, said that although Simon Estes is probably the greatest Wotan in the world today, he will not cast him in his production of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* because a black head of the gods would not make sense in his production. And there are many opera houses in Europe that still try and avoid casting a black soprano with a white tenor.

Blacks had to live with this attitude for years. And fortunately, they had *Porgy and Bess* to claim as their own. But in an age in which discrimination of any kind is no longer acceptable, isn't it time to make *Porgy and Bess* an opera for singers of all colors?

Michael Strunsky, a trustee of the Gershwin estate, says that the work will go into the public domain in 2010 and until then he will not allow it to be performed by a non-black cast.

Strunsky adds that as far as he knows no white singers have asked permission to perform the opera.

In any case, he adamantly believes that whites cannot do justice to the piece. And he is afraid that white actors might caricature the black characters in the opera.

But isn't the essence of the stage anchored in actors playing roles? Elizabeth Graham, who portrays *Bess* in the American production of the opera which opens a limited run at the Caesarea Amphitheatre tonight, said that she would understand any white soprano claiming discrimination. But she added that she hoped the white singers would forgive the blacks this one opera.

In an age in which blacks and other minority groups all over the world fight for equal rights, such a decision by the Gershwin estate takes us back many decades.

And if the estate does not understand that great art transcends color and race, maybe the time has come for all the black singers of the world to unite and demand that this unartistic decree be changed.

A stage on which only blacks are allowed is as frightening as a country in which blacks are ghettoized and humiliated.

The author writes regularly on the arts for The Jerusalem Post.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A MAJOR BLUNDER

Sir, - A recent statement from 10 Downing Street, saying that "the British government does not recognize Israeli sovereignty over any part of Jerusalem," caused quite a stir in political circles in Jerusalem and London and is much resented within the Anglo-Jewish community.

It came in a letter sent by John Major's private secretary to the London-based United Jerusalem Campaign which had asked the prime minister for a message of greeting for its Jerusalem Day dinner, which he declined to do.

Consider the much more conciliatory political climate prevailing

since the Israel-PLO accord, a change in the anachronistic, anti-Israel stand of the British government on the Jerusalem issue might have been expected. Is Mr. Major suggesting that the land on which the president's residence and the Knesset are located is "occupied Palestinian territory"? It would be taking the matter ad absurdum and if this is indeed what the British prime minister had in mind, he has committed a major blunder!

ELIYAHU TAL,  
Chairman,  
The International Committee  
for a United Jerusalem  
Tel Aviv.

### THE "KUNA"

Sir, - On May 30, Croatia introduced a new currency, called the kuna. "Kuna" is a Croatian name for marten, a small ferret-like mammal commonly found in some Croatian forests. The introduction of the monetary unit kuna has unfortunately led to some controversy and misunderstanding due to the fact that the monetary unit kuna was also in usage in pro-fascist Croatia during World War II.

For over 100 years, notably between 1260 and 1384, a silver coin was regularly minted for the Croatian Bans (viceroys), with the likeness of a marten on one side of the coin. Above the marten, a Jerusalem cross was engraved, while a six-pointed star was engraved below. Surrounding these symbols were the words *Moneta regis Sclavoniae*.

The use of the marten on the coin was basically a metaphorical reference to levying taxes and for the measure of barter, which was common in medieval Croatia. The importance of the marten as a Croatian symbol is further demonstrated by the adoption of the marten as a central element on the Croatian coat of arms.

The kuna has had a long and legitimate history in Croatia. Its abuse by pro-fascist Croatia during World War II does not disqualify it from further use.

TOMISLAV SUNJE,  
Department of Culture and  
Promotion,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
Croatia,  
Zagreb.

### THE SATMAR VISIT

Sir, - We are told that, because of the anti-Zionist politics of the Satmar, their rabbi and his entourage visiting Israel from the US will not be flying El Al because it is the national airline of Israel, nor the Western Wall because it was captured by the Zionists.

Yet this group will land at Lod (Ben Gurion Airport), which Israel secured in the War of Independence; it will be using roads built by Zionists and traveling in assured safety and freedom which the IDF and the (Zionist) Israel Police ensure for citizens and visitors alike.

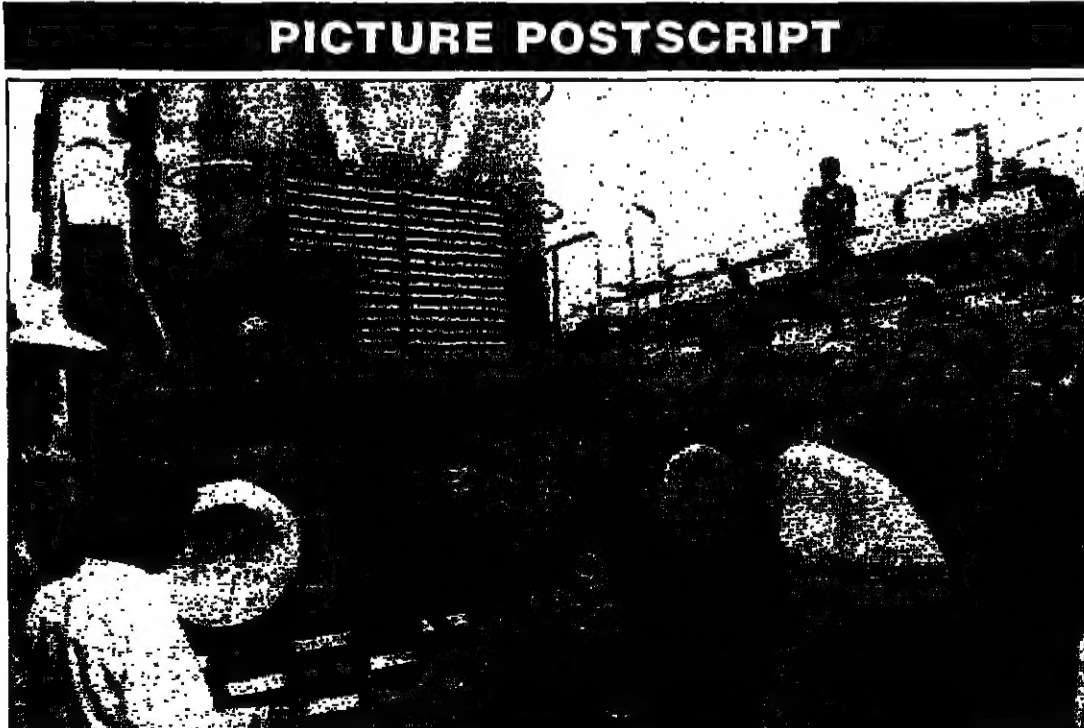
It becomes apparent the Satmar are quite resolved to have double standards, for they have no compunction about compromising their anti-Zionism when it is to the advantage of their personal physical protection.

LEILA CUMBER  
Tel Aviv.

### MYSTIFIED

Sir, - As an old friend of Yehiel Kadishai, I was somewhat mystified to read in Teddy Levite's letter of May 30 that he was supposed to have "cursed" Mr. Levite and "ragged" at him for several minutes. Anyone who has had the good fortune to know Yehiel as well as I do can certainly testify to his unfailing good humor and imperturbability, even in the face of considerable provocation. I have certainly never known him to use any bad language, in any tongue.

Tel Aviv. JACK PADWA



**HAVE TEETH WILL TRAVEL** - New Delhi policeman Marender Singh pulls a 150-ton locomotive engine with his chompers. He got 8.5 meters down the track before he finally gave up and bought a ticket. (Reuters)

## POSTSCRIPTS

**AN AMERICAN** Indian who said his drumming was a religious observance was convicted of violating a city ordinance against noise.

Joe Medicine, 21, of Saint Ste. Marie, Michigan, faces up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

His defense did not sound very convincing. "I didn't intend to disturb anybody's peace," Medicine said. "I want to share our culture with others. A lot of people think we're just a bunch of drunken Indians, beating on a skin drum. But that isn't what we're about at all."

**A VAMPIRE** in Vladivostok was arrested and accused of killing a traffic cop and then drinking his blood.

Police in this Russian port city said the woman vampire stabbed the policeman to death in her home and then sucked his blood from the wound while a horrified witness looked on.

The woman told police she developed a liking for the taste of blood as a child when she cut her hand and tried to stop the blood with her lips.

**THIS IS** the absolute ultimate in environmentally correct lunacy.

The US Air Force announced plans to retrofit each of its ICBMs, which carry from three to 10 nuclear bombs that can wipe out entire cities, with new cooling systems, according to an article in the *Wall Street Journal*.

The reason for the switch is to eliminate systems that use chlorofluorocarbons, which are suspected of harming the ozone layer.

Sirwa

JAVICO 1350



## A good way to wrap a couple's list of wedding gifts

DEAR RUTHIE

RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, Having married off one son two years ago and watched the young couple struggle to exchange unwanted or duplicate gifts at several different stores, I am urging my second son to add a line - perhaps at the bottom of the invitation reply card - stating that the couple has a "list" at a certain chain of stores. The in-laws feel this could be insulting to the invitees. What do you think?

Helpful & Hopefully Right  
Jerusalem

Dear Hopefully Helpful,

Your soon-to-be in-laws may not be familiar with the custom of "registering" at a gift shop. Or perhaps they are worried that guests who are unfamiliar with the custom will think it tacky or insulting. In any case, it isn't worth getting into an argument just because the young couple may end up having to do a little exchanging.

Rather than adding a line to the RSVP card, just give anyone who consults you about a gift the name of the store where the couple is registered.

Dear Ruthie,

My friend and I have been planning a trip to Sinai together since the winter. As the trip draws nearer, she's been getting more and more moody, to the point where she's acting like it's just a coincidence the two of us will be there at the same time. A group of other friends will also be there, near where we are staying.

If she's acting this way now, I can just imagine what she'll be like when we actually get there. Should I cancel? I don't want to have a touchy-feely talk about what's bugging her, because it makes me uncomfortable.

I've been looking forward to this vacation for a long time, and I'm annoyed.

Deserted in the Desert?  
Neveh Shalom

Dear D In the D,

Don't cancel a trip you've been looking forward to. If your friend has a gripe, she should be the one to put up - or shut up. Anxiety could be at the root of her strange behavior.

Many friendships have gone awry as a result of shared vacations.

But normally things go sour during a trip, not prior to it. In your case, perhaps the actual holiday will turn out glitch-free.

If your friend doesn't shape up - or at least cheer up - you can always spend more time with the other companions you mentioned.

Dear Ruthie,

My mother-in-law took my three-year-old shopping. When they returned, my daughter was wearing the ugliest pair of sandals I have ever seen. My mother-in-law had let my daughter choose the ones she wanted.

Since she wore the sandals out of the store, I can't return them. If I get rid of them, my daughter will be heartbroken and my mother-in-law's feelings will be hurt. What can I do?

Sandal Scandalized  
Rishon LeZion

Dear Scandalized,

The worst that can happen if your daughter walks around in ugly sandals is that someone might think you have bad taste. Obviously the idea is distasteful to you.

Eventually, your daughter will be selecting many garments which will not be to your liking. You might as well get used to it now.

So grit your teeth, and wait till the sandals fall apart or till your daughter grows out of them. Then get her a pair you like. If she's only three, it won't be long.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

## Spend your salary on a summer bargain

TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

A directory of summer prices and special offers by Israeli hotels for local tourists has been published by Moleket Tours for distribution to works committees around the country.

A three-night weekend for a family of four (half-board) at Elat's Marina Club Hotel ranges from NIS 1,800 to NIS 2,020, depending on the date; a similar package at the Sport Hotel goes for NIS 2,450 to NIS 2,970. In Tiberias, this package is offered by the Jordan River Hotel for NIS 2,760, and at the Tameret Hotel for NIS 1,240 to NIS 1,780.

ARKIA HAS a mid-week vacation package at Kfar Blum, which includes flights to and from Kiryat Shmona, two nights with breakfast and a rental car (not including insurance and kilometrage) for NIS 399 per person.

LUFTHANSA and El Al are matching the charter fares on some flights to Munich. The lower price is \$424 until June 23, instead of the regular fare of \$533. After that date, it goes up to \$499, while the usual fare increases to \$626.

KLM is offering a special round-trip price of \$399 on its Friday jumbo flights between Tel Aviv and Amsterdam, Paris or London, instead of \$550. There are also reduced fares to other locations in Europe via these flights.

The price is valid through December and includes, in most cases, hotel accommodation in Amsterdam for flights without a same-day connection. The flights leave Amsterdam Friday morning

and Ben-Gurion Friday afternoon.

ARKIA NOW has a fully equipped private ambulance plane, a Westwind jet, which can carry a patient anywhere in Europe on a nonstop flight. Flights to the US and further afield require an intermediate stop.

AIR FRANCE has issued a hotel guide which also includes apartment accommodation and a number of country inns and chateaux in which, the writer notes, guests are expected to dress elegantly in the evening. The price for a night in the Chateau de Marçay in Chignon in the Loire Valley is 684 francs (about \$125).

THE HEBREW University's School for Overseas Students is organizing a study tour in English on the Jews of Piedmont and Lombardy, led by Dr. Yom Tov Assis. The tour includes the Jewish quarters and synagogues in Turin and Milan and their surroundings. For information, Tel. 02-342079.

A SPECIAL-INTEREST tour of another sort is the American "Dixieland Tour" of Sky Hakkilkar Tours, which includes Nashville, Memphis, New Orleans and St. Louis.

The 17-day tour, not including air fare, costs \$1,825.



Interior of the Hungarian Parliament, one of Budapest's many magnificent buildings.

(Gesa Szabellody/Camera Press)

## Festive setting for a festival

TRAVEL

RAINE MARCUS

ON the periphery of Budapest stand rows of stark, high-rise apartment blocks, in areas the natives call "slumber towns." But for me Budapest is the grandeur in the city center, buildings the authorities are struggling to preserve. Their intricate grille work makes a stroll through the streets a delight even on a gray spring day.

The architectural splendor was a perfect setting for the Budapest Spring Festival, a wealth of music, opera and dance, which I attended as a guest of the Hungarian Tourist Board. I fell in love with the buildings, the street markets and the atmosphere.

The city is divided by the Danube into the old, walled Buda and the commercial Pest, where most people live. On the Pest side of the river, in the State Opera House, with its gilt and marble ceilings, frescoes and Greek columns, we sat in the "royal" balcony for a performance in Italian of Rossini's *Moses*.

One can only marvel at the setting, and yet, though salaries are low (around \$150 a month), the average Hungarian can still afford a ticket to the opera or concerts during the annual spring festival, costing a maximum of \$12.

During the festival, the streets are full of colorful open-air markets, offering embroidered lace doilies and tablecloths (very expensive), sheepskin rugs (around \$30) and little, unframed watercolors (\$8 to \$15). Wood- or bone-handled pen knives, handmade for five generations by the Szanovits family, cost \$8 to \$30.

Vendors, like Hungarians in general, are friendly, but even in tourist areas do not speak English. German is widely spoken; Budapest has become a popular place for weekend vacations for German and Italian tourists.

Stalls in the market offer discs of mostly classical music at very reasonable prices. Buskers play

the accordion in the streets, and a budding rock group performs on a stage near the main street, Vaci Utca. After the fall of Communism, some 600 streets and squares in the city were renamed - except one - Moscow Square.

ALTHOUGH MOST of the hotels are situated in Pest, Buda has the royal palace, castle, Ministry of Defence and museums. Athletic types can reach Buda by foot, but taxis are generally cheap (the ride there costs about \$5). Wear comfortable shoes to walk the cobbled streets.

There is also a cable car, reminiscent of old wooden railway carriages. For about \$1 it will take you up or down the hill to the castle and museum district.

A visit to the National Gallery or a stroll around the castle ramparts and cobbled lanes can end pleasantly with a double espresso at a picturesque coffee bar overlooking the city.

Although I didn't visit one, Budapest is full of casinos, including one in the castle area owned by Israeli businessman Ezra Bililui, who offers package deals for those inclined to lose a few months' salary around the roulette table.

A MORE traditional attraction for Israelis in Pest is the old Do-hany Street synagogue, currently undergoing massive and expensive renovations, thanks to a fund started by Tony Curtis and Estee Lauder's son, Ronnie Lauder. Shabbat services take place in a smaller chapel just around the corner.

A \$250 donation will leave your name inscribed on one of thousands of silver leaves making up the "silver tree" in the synagogue courtyard. Budapest today has a

100,000-strong, mainly secular, Jewish community.

Sadly, the Jewish Museum, containing Judaica collected from all over Europe, antiques and art work valued at \$8 million, was burgled last December. The synagogue and museum are guarded around the clock by police on foot and vehicle patrols, according to one member of the community who requested anonymity.

Thieves needed a few trucks and at least six hours to rob the museum, he said, and community members found it suspicious that police guards did not notice the robbery. The oldest item stolen dated back to the 13th century, he said, and other items taken had been salvaged from the Warsaw and Cracow ghettos.

THE NEW York Cafe, another Budapest landmark, is celebrating its centenary this year. It takes its name from an insurance company established on the premises.

The magnificent building boasts a somewhat kitschy and eclectic blend of neo-Renaissance, Baroque and Gothic interior design, and bears no resemblance to an American hamburger joint. Anyone with a tendency to suffer from a stiff neck should take care when looking up at the richly adorned ceilings decorated with cherubs and frescoes painted by Gustav Mannheimer.

Marble pillars separate the lower floor, dubbed the "deepwater pool" (because it is shaped like a swimming pool), from the upper, wrought-iron balconies, nooks and crannies.

The deepwater pool is a restaurant with gypsy fiddlers and traditional Hungarian dishes, such as the inevitable goulash soup, blintzes, freshwater fish in rich creamy

sauces and fresh asparagus.

On the upper gallery floor, framed caricatures of artists, journalists and writers decorate the walls of this former rendezvous for Budapest's intellectuals and bohemians.

According to New York manager Attila Nanassy, the insurance company, until it went bankrupt, managed its business on the upper floors, while downstairs in the deepwater pool many an intellectual discussion was conducted. Thomas Mann, Josephine Baker and Charlie Chaplin signed the visitors' book. The New York is still state-owned, but complicated legal battles are being waged over its privatization.

Dining out in Budapest is not expensive, and one can have a three-course dinner, including one of the country's excellent wines, for about \$15.

Creamy goose liver is one of Hungary's main exports, but it is not cheap, costing about \$30 a can. It may be wise to buy it in a city center store or in the hotel, and spend a few more dollars; the airport duty free shop was out of stock on most can sizes when I was there.

Little cloth sachets of either hot or sweet paprika make good cheap souvenirs, costing about \$1 to \$4, depending on amount and where you shop. Paprika, one of the country's main products, is picked in the autumn and there are no fewer than 120 varieties.

I was flown to Budapest, business class, by the national Malev airline. It still cannot compete with its more luxurious Western European counterparts, but the service on the three-hour flight was friendly and adequate.

The cheapest way to get from the airport to the hotel is by comfortable minibus, which will take you to the door for just \$6. The night before your departure, you can book a seat on the minibus to return to the airport.

## Hairy tale of a leg

INTER ALIA

SUZANNE GLASS

I had been here for two days when the beauty therapist dropped a blob of boiling wax on my shin.

It hurt. I mean it really hurt. I yelled. She said, "You're far too sensitive."

No apology, no cold water to soothe it, just a... Well, these things happen. Now you let me finish your leg?"

I jumped up and hopped out of there before she could even think of dipping her spatula back into the offending hair remover, with the beauty therapist yelling after me.

I was up in arms. The area of the burn was small, maybe the size of a thumbnail, but I couldn't go out in the sun and it turned from red to pink to white to yellow, and then to an ugly little blister.

My miniskirt stayed in the closet. I went to the doctor to get a letter. It said: "She has a 7 mm. second-degree burn. It will leave a small white scar."

I plunked it on the beauty therapist's desk and said, "How are you intending to compensate me for this?"

"How about a free hair cut?" she asked.

I was about as likely to let her take her scissors to me as I was to stand naked on my head in the middle of Dizengoff.

I thought: "This is a legal matter. I'd better find myself a lawyer. I did. 'This is small-claims court business. Let's get cracking,'" he said.

A couple of days later, a Tel Aviv taxi driver asked me if I was enjoying Israel. He asked the wrong person. I poured out my woes.

I told him the wax story. I told him I was going to sue for compensation. I told him the attitude of the leg-waxer had been entirely unacceptable.

He listened quietly. He said nothing. Then he stopped the car and turned to me.

"Let me see," he said.

I proffered my right leg. He shrugged his shoulders in that oh-so-Israeli way.

I said it was really nothing and changed the subject. He asked if I was from London. I was incensed. What did I have to do to elicit a modicum of sympathy?

I ignored the question. He repeated it.

"Yes," I said with clenched teeth. "I am from London."

"Wonderful city," he said. "I went there in 1979 with a group of Israeli soldiers, disabled soldiers."

I wasn't in the mood for polite conversation with an insensitive creature who didn't bat an eye at my suffering, but my British education got the better of me. I felt obliged to ask.

"Oh. Were you injured?" "Yes," he said. "I lost my leg. You didn't notice?"

I told the story to a friend. He said it reminded him of the old Chinese proverb: "I used to complain because I had no shoes. Until I met a man who had no feet."



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# This could be the start of a cranberry craze

OFF THE SHELF  
MARTHA WEISLS

SOME things are more American than apple pie — cranberries, for instance.

This month, Israelis may start to learn the name *hamutziyot* ("little sour ones"), a reference to the extreme tartness of these little red berries.

The Super-Sol and Hypercol chains are currently featuring cranberry products as part of a health-and-diet food promotion, and the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel has incorporated cranberries into its dining room and lobby menus for June. (The menus erroneously call them *uchmaniyot* — blueberries.)

The impetus for this cranberry craze came from the importers of the well-known brand, Ocean Spray, made by a Massachusetts-based growers' cooperative.

American-born Alice Nahamias and her husband Moshe import a variety of cranberry products — sold mainly at Super-Sol, Hypercol, Jerusalem Co-op and some private grocery shops.

Though commonly known as "cranberry juice," Ocean Spray's basic beverage is labeled "Cranberry Classic cranberry drink."

The clear red beverage combines cranberry juice, cranberry concentrate and the sweetener fructose (fruit sugar), derived from corn syrup. Pure cranberry juice would be too sour.

Even with fructose, it tastes similar to lemonade. A slightly sweeter variation is Ocean Spray's Cranapple — a cranberry apple drink.

There are 56.5 calories in every 100 milliliters of the Classic drink; 73 calories in the Cranapple. For a tall glassful, double those figures. Though the berries are naturally rich in vitamins, Ocean Spray adds Vitamin C to make up for what is lost when the juice is heated before bottling. There is no artificial food coloring, flavoring or preservative.

Israeli medical researchers were the first to confirm the folk wisdom that cranberry juice is useful in preventing and helping cure urinary-tract infections, which mainly affect women. Recent well-publicized Harvard Medical School research supports the finding.

At the Super-Sol/Hypercol stores, a quart bottle (nearly a liter) of Cranberry Classic or Cranapple is currently retailing at NIS 8.90 (instead of NIS 9.90).

More economical is a concentrate in a small carton, at NIS 7.50. When diluted with four parts water, it makes more than a liter of the cranberry drink.

Ocean Spray's Cran-Fruit — crushed cranberries mixed with either raspberries or oranges — comes in sealed plastic tubs and can be used as a condiment with poultry, or as a filling for cakes and pastries. The current Super-Sol/Hypercol price is NIS 4.99 for 340 grams (instead of NIS 5.90).

The more traditional Jellied Cranberry Sauce (NIS 5.50) and Whole Berry Cranberry Sauce (NIS 4.99, on sale) are available in cans.

The Ocean Spray imports are



(above:) Garlic lovers will welcome the series of seasonings and sauces with the Christopher Ranch brand name; Ocean Spray is providing the impetus for the use of cranberry products as part of a health-and-diet food promotion.

under the kashrut supervision of Rabbi Joseph Rabbag of New York and have the approval of the Chief Rabbinate here.

The month-long health food festival at Super-Sol, Hypercol and Hagal Hayarok offers significant discounts on many other products with a health or diet feature.

VETERAN pretzel makers Beigel Beigel have caught up with modern times with their new whole-wheat pretzels.

They boast of added dietary fiber and reduced fat. The clover-leaf-shaped salted pretzels taste pretty much like any others.

While the front of the cellophane bag is labeled in Hebrew only, except for the "BB" initials, the ingredients listing on the back is in Hebrew, English and French.

The product (NIS 2.87 for 200 grams at chain stores) has the *Eda Haredit* badatz hechsher.

IF YOU believe that garlic repels vampires, contributes to health or simply tastes good, you may welcome the series of seasonings and sauces with the Christopher Ranch brand name from California.

There is chopped garlic or crushed garlic (retailing between NIS 6.20 and NIS 7.50 for a 120-gram jar), garlic dressing for salads and hors d'oeuvres (397 grams for NIS 13.50 to NIS 16) and a spicy garlic salsa sauce with tomatoes, onions and peppers (same price, but for 454 grams).

The most expensive by far is the

pesto sauce, combining basil and garlic with other ingredients — including cheese flavoring extract, which makes the product "dairy."

The small, 227-gram jar retails for NIS 16-18.50. In my estimation, it would suffice for two adults eating pasta with pesto as a main course, but it could also serve several people as a first course.

The only non-garlic product in the series is chopped ginger, especially useful in Chinese cooking, at the same price as the chopped or crushed garlic.

The products, imported by Marina, carry the kashrut approval of Rabbi Michael Schick, head of the Orthodox rabbinic court of San Francisco.

HERMON is a new brand name in packaged dairy-rich ice cream. It is a step up for Feldman of Rehovot, previously a small-scale manufacturer of ice cream bars, poptails and Manbo cream cookies.

The boxes have a temptingly natural look with a white background, pastoral pink cows and scoops of pastel-colored ice cream. Indeed, the vanilla/mocha dual flavor pack is free of food coloring, and the pale mocha has a distinct and pleasing coffee flavor.

After that, opening a package of punch/banana flavors is a shock.

The colors are shocking pink and bright yellow, and the taste is equally artificial. The yellow comes from tartrazine, a synthetic food coloring which the Health Ministry permits but requires list-



ing by name, on the grounds that some people are allergic to it.

Others may wish to avoid tartrazine because it has been implicated as a suspected carcinogen.

Hermon ice cream also comes in basic vanilla/chocolate. The price for all three is a fairly standard NIS 8.80 for 454 grams (also stated as 900 ml.).

ENVIRONMENTALISM AND commercialism are a popular mix this season.

Both Tnuva and its subsidiary dairy Tenne-Noga have the rights to images from the Warner Bros. feature film *Free Willy*, about a little boy who tries to save a whale.

Tnuva has put the boy and the whale on labels of chocolate milk and a chocolate dessert, while Tenne-Noga is using it to promote a lemon-flavored popsicle.

Curiously for a product meant to appeal to the environmentally

concerned, the lemon popsicle is colored bright red and green, thanks to tartrazine. The product is parve, and the price is 90 agavot per bar, or NIS 7.20 in a family pack of eight.

Another endangered species, the panda, appears on the wrapper of a Tenne-Noga ice cream bar.

The bar itself is shaped to resemble a bear's face, which will probably melt right off the stick on a warm day. The ice cream is vanilla, chocolate and strawberry. It has a bit of food coloring, but no tartrazine.

Beware: The bear's nose is made of bubble gum. This whimsical ice cream bar sells for a reasonable NIS 1.45 for 70 grams.

Adults who like American butter-pecan ice cream might prefer Tenne-Noga's Pecan-Til, pecan-flavored ice cream in a sugar cone, at NIS 3.80 per individual portion.

## Touch of drama in the wardrobe

FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

FEW Israeli women owned ball gowns in the early years of the state. Aside from the exorbitant cost of a garment which would seldom be worn, there was the question of storage space in the match-box homes common at the time. But now, the ball gown is enjoying a spectacular revival.

The little black dress which sufficed for so many years is not passe, but it is gradually taking a back seat to the more lavish, opulent confections which make whoever wears them look and feel like royalty.

Israeli designers are cautious about including sweeping ball gowns in their collections. At best, there are only two or three gowns, standing out in strong contrast to the restrained, pared down silhouettes of cocktail dresses. Overseas designers have no such qualms.

Long, swishing, generously cut bouffant skirts billow out dramatically from fitted torsos in most of the major collections.

Gowns are often enhanced by portrait necklines and long, slightly puffed sleeves. There are also wonderful strapless and off-the-shoulder creations which look as if they came straight out of an early Hollywood movie, exuding old-world elegance with new-world panache.

Because Israelis are traveling abroad more, designer label ball gowns are joining the wardrobes of the growing number of women who can afford them.

If you've recently been to a fancy wedding or grand scale charity event, you'll find that there's no shortage of people buying the kind of dress which most of us can still only dream of.

Seal still push what they call the "Mediterranean flair" of their products, which they name after Spanish towns.

Thus the Cordoba follows hard on the bumper of the Toledo, the Ibiza and the now-defunct Malaga and Marbella.

The Cordoba is a slightly longer Ibiza with a higher, round rump centered around the giant, 455-liter trunk. The attractive, chunky body, designed by Italian Giorgetto Giugiaro, is rounded off by a rear spoiler.

The trunk is integrated with the front sections in such a way that at first glance the Cordoba appears to be a hatchback. It is, according to manufacturers, "designed for [those] who need a comfortable car with the carrying capacity provided by a separate boot, but who reject the conservative line of the classic three-box models."

VW supplies most of the hardware beneath the body, including the engine, the suspension and most of the interior. The VW heritage is also apparent inside — the dials and switchgear resemble those used in the Golf.

Not everything here is a plus. I didn't like the useless niches and holdalls, notably the one under the glove compartment. However, the overall positive effect is that the attractive, black plastic on the

dash is of the highest quality and is solidly molded into place.

The lively colored cloth seats are comfortable and supportive, although comfort quality isn't quite up to the German standards. There are headrests for the front and back-seat passengers.

The rear parcel ledge is shaped at an awkward slope, probably to allow for the cavernous trunk, which can be further extended to a maximum of 762 liters by folding forward the rear row of seats.

VW has also brought its well-known reputation for safety to Seat. The rigid, reinforced bodywork structure, complete with six "safety rings," is solid Teutonic, not carefree Mediterranean. There is a collapsible steering column and side-impact protection in the doors.

The engine gives good, instant response and there is no waiting for the revs to rise before something happens.

At 5,000 rpm, the engine sound becomes boomy with a deep, throbbing vibration which discourages experimenting with the really high speeds.

Flexibility, rather than power, is the name of the engine's game. It's possible to drive at anything from 40 km/h up to 100 km/h in either third, fourth or fifth gear. For what is basically a run-

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## BUSINESS &amp; FINANCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1994

## Arkia to lose monopoly on local air routes

EVELYN GORDON

DOMESTIC air routes will be opened to competition within a year - breaking Arkia's virtual monopoly - the Civil Aviation Administration (CAA) told the Knesset economics committee yesterday.

CAA head Menahem Sharon said five companies have already applied for licenses to run domestic flights.

At least one will be licensed to fly between the center of the country and Kiryat Shmona within a few months, he added.

The committee was discussing the issue at the request of Eilat Mayor Gabi Kadosh, who said competition on domestic flights to Eilat was essential to bring down prices.

Eilat, he noted, is still relatively cut off from the rest of the country by road and therefore affordable flights are necessary for both residents and domestic tourists.

"The municipality alone spends NIS 1.5 million a year on plane tickets," he said.

Arkia managing director Yisrael Borovich objected to competition on the Eilat route, which is the company's mainstay.

Borovich said there was not enough traffic on the route to justify another carrier, and the damage to Arkia would be considerable.

"The number of passengers flying today provides a limited profit, if at all, to Arkia, and that with great difficulty and with no certainty," he said.

Borovich also said prices on the Eilat route, which are controlled by the Transportation Ministry, are already cheap compared to comparable routes in other countries. He added that prices have risen by much less than the Cost-of-Living Index since 1985.

However, he said, prices for Eilat residents have gone up faster than the index, because of the drastic reduction in the government subsidy they enjoy.

According to Kadosh, the subsidy has declined from 33%-35% of the cost of a ticket in 1985 to about 2%-4% today.

Committee members agreed that the subsidy level should be raised to equalize it with the subsidy given residents of the north on domestic flights, which is 15%.

## Agency's demands on El Al rejected

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Treasury yesterday rejected the Jewish Agency's demand for four percent of El Al shares and 15.4% of voting rights.

The Treasury was also empowered by the cabinet privatization committee to take legal and other means to remove any obstacle the agency may put in the way of privatizing the airline.

Agency treasurer Hanan Ben-Yehuda said the agency, as representative of Keren Hayesod and

the Jewish National Fund, owned regular El Al shares until 1960.

At that time, they traded the shares for 15.6% of the management shares, which gave the agency the right to appoint two out of 13 company directors.

Since then, the board has been expanded to 17 members, reducing the agency's voting rights to 11.8%.

Ben-Yehuda said the agency will assist the government in El

Al's privatization, but will also protect its rights under the law and past agreements.

After long and fruitless negotiations with the agency, Government Companies Authority director Yossi Nitzani asked the cabinet privatization committee to empower the finance minister to take legal action for removing the obstacles put up by the agency.

Under local and US securities

regulations, stock offerings can only offer one type of stock.

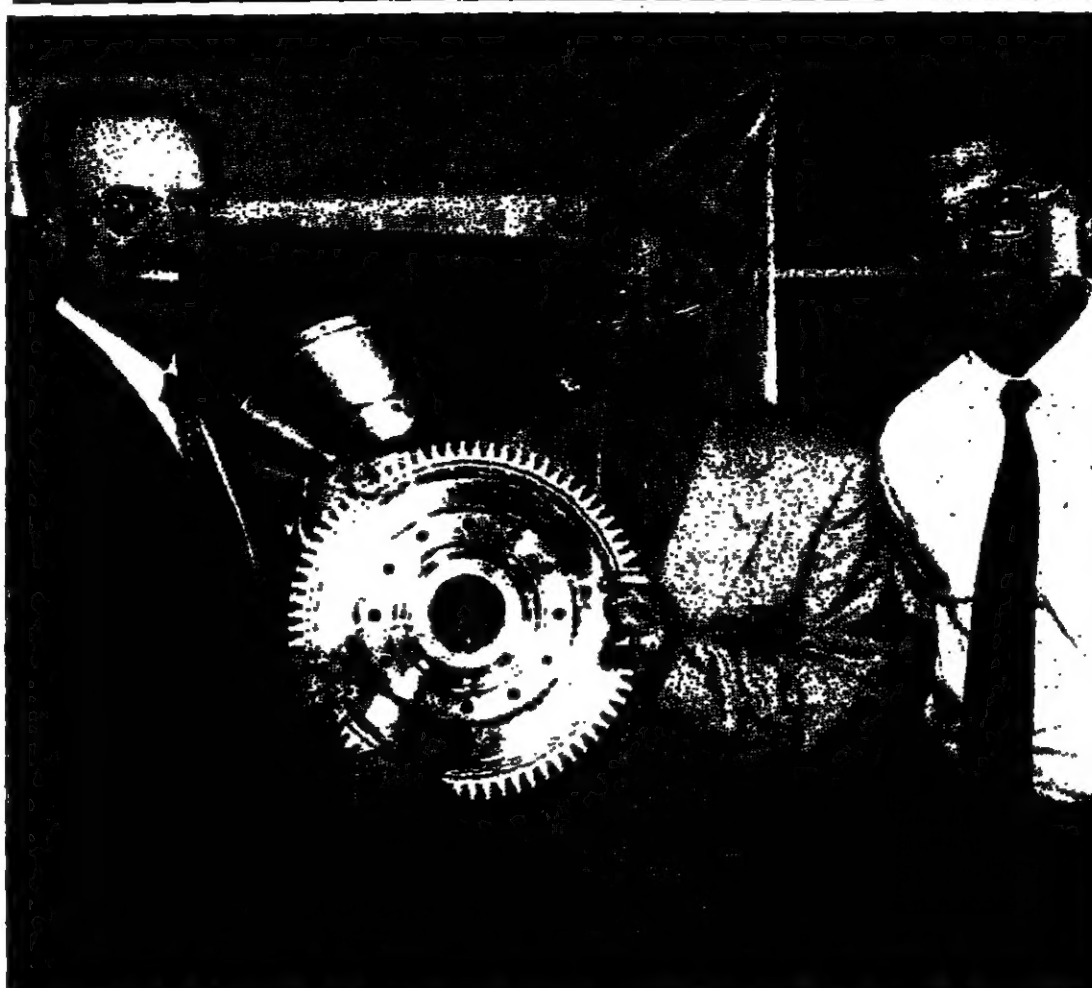
As long as the agency holds on to its special shares, it impedes the implementation of El Al's privatization program. Based on securities regulations, the cabinet privatization committee decided that uniform shares denominated at NIS 1 each would be issued.

The Treasury called the agency's demand for 4% of the shares after privatization "absolutely un-

reasonable", since today it only holds 0.02% of the company's shares.

The Treasury further rejected the demands based on the fact that the agency is not party to improving the company's situation.

The airline's value will increase significantly from the six airplanes it will receive from the government and from the substantial amounts of cash it will raise in world capital markets.



Planning and Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet (center) and Pratt & Whitney president Carl Krapak (left), accompanied by Beit Shemesh Engines director-general Avner Shaham, hold an engine disc that came off a new production line inaugurated yesterday at Beit Shemesh Engines. Last year the company signed a \$15 million multi-year contract for the supply of engine discs to Pratt & Whitney. In the framework of the agreement, Pratt & Whitney transferred equipment to Israel, which was used to expand the production line.

## Most provident funds register negative real yields of some 4%-6%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MOST Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim and First International Bank provident funds achieved negative real yields of between four percent and six in the first five months of the year.

The negative fund yields were due to the sharp fall in shares on the stock exchange in February, March and May, as well as the weakness of the bond and Treasury bill market.

In the January to May period, Otzma was the best performing fund, with a real negative yield of 4.47%.

Sheon achieved a negative real yield of 4.64%, Zur a negative real yield of 4.7%, Rimona a negative real return of 5.28% and Ya'ad a negative real yield of 6.62%.

Leumi's worst performing provident fund was Rakia, with a negative real yield of 13.12%.

Bank Hapoalim's Gadish, the largest provident fund in the country, achieved a real negative yield of 6.2% in the reported period.

The Tagnolim fund reported a negative real yield of 6.2%. Or a negative real yield of 6.4%, Katzir a negative real return of 6.3% and Mercantile a negative real yield of 5.6%.

First International Bank's provident funds also achieved negative real yields during the first five months of the year. Mizrah reported a negative real yield of 4.83%, Ashdod achieved a negative real yield of 4.95% and Mistalem a negative real yield of 4.75%.

Pitzum ended the first five months with a negative return of 4.96% and Tezuva, First International's share fund, achieved a negative real yield of 7.69%.

Bank Discount and United Mizrahi Bank provident funds are expected to publish their yields during the next few days.

Mizrahi funds, which achieved relatively high yields last year, are expected to report very bad yields for the first five months of the year due to the funds' large investments in shares, which suffered from the slump on the stock exchange.

The public took out NIS 253m. from the public funds during the first five months of the year compared with excess deposits of NIS 528m. in the corresponding period last year, according to the Treasury capital division.

The drop in the proportion of the public's assets in provident funds was mainly due to the sharp fall in the stock exchange.

## Azrieli to build office tower in Beersheba

AMIR ROZENBLITT

DAVID Azrieli, the Canadian-Jewish developer, plans to invest \$18-\$20 million to build a 12-story office building next to the Canyon Hanegev in Beersheba.

Each floor of office space will average between 850 square meters and 1,000 sq.m., and the entire building will house some 10,000 sq.m. of office space.

Architects Avraham Yasky and Yossi Sivan are working on the project.

The Canyon Hanegev itself will be expanded by 3,000 sq.m. to 20,500 sq.m., Azrieli said at a press conference in Beersheba yesterday.

The entire complex should be completed within two years of the receipt of building permits, he said.

Office space will rent for \$14 per square meter, compared to \$18-\$20 for similar space in Tel Aviv.

was offered.

"Under the conditions they offered me, it was not worthwhile from our standpoint," he said. "I think the establishment of the offices will be better for the city."

Azrieli noted that the city would get millions of dollars more for the office space and the municipal taxes than it would have for the hotel.

Azrieli confirmed that Canit owes the municipality \$900,000 for building space added to the mall after the original plan was approved, and said it would be paid soon.

He added that revenues at the mall had jumped 5% to 11% last year.

He denied reports that Beersheba Mayor Yitzhak Rager has stock in the mall.

Before his election as mayor, Rager served as director of Canit. Darom, the company that built the mall, and held 5% of its stock.

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## 'Int'l product standards should be adopted'

JOSE ROSENFELD

PRODUCT standards here must undergo basic changes to adapt to the world market, according to recommendations by an Industry and Trade Ministry committee.

The committee, headed by engineer Shmuel Sorek, reviewed present standards policy and suggested that the country adopt international standards to take full advantage of its trade agreements and the opening of international markets to local products.

According to the recommendations, which were presented to Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish late on Tuesday, official standards should be adopted to promote consumer health and safety and environmental protection, rather than used as a means to protect the local market from imports.

The committee expects that by setting a clear basis for standards, the government will be able to pursue a policy that promotes quality and efficiency in the marketplace.

This, in turn, will help increase the competitiveness of Israeli products abroad.

The committee also recommended decentralizing the responsibility for product standards throughout the government, rather than concentrating that authority in the Industry and Trade Ministry.

Under the proposed change, each ministry will appoint a standards director and the Industry and Trade Ministry standards director will coordinate all standards activities.

The Standards Institute would be turned into the National Standards and Quality Institute, and would keep together all the existing laboratories and divisions.

The institute would continue performing tests and providing standards certification.

However, the financial aspect of the different activities would be accounted for separately.

In order to eliminate discrimination against imported goods, the committee recommended concentrating all standards enforcement activities, including for imports, at the marketing points, instead of at the ports.

The change is expected to eliminate the bottlenecks that face commercial shipments at the ports.

Importers will have to certify that the goods were tested by recognized laboratories abroad.

In order to ease enforcement, the committee recommended minimizing the number of official standards and expanding mutual recognition agreements with other countries so that shipments arriving from such countries will already have the local standards symbol on them.

A minority on the committee called for privatizing the Standards Institute's laboratories.

## Mandelbaum: Stock market has reached its lowest point

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE stock exchange is experiencing a downturn, but it looks like it has reached its lowest point. Kivun chairman Moshe Mandelbaum said yesterday at a news conference to introduce a new closed flexible mutual fund.

The fund, Nahshon, will issue certificates limited to NIS 100 million.

"The chances that the market will rise are greater than those that it will fall," said Mandelbaum, who was governor of the Bank of Israel in the early 1980s.

He said, the economy continues to grow, despite the standstill in the construction industry and added that public companies have reported a growth in business.

"We may have been overly optimistic at the start of the year, but in general the economy is in a good position," Mandelbaum said. "There are many companies traded at attractive prices. In my opinion, at current prices, it is possible to invest in the market in quality stocks with a high chance of achieving good returns in the medium and long term."

Mandelbaum said the decrease in companies' first quarter profits reflected a drop in the business sector's profitability due to a rise in public sector wages. He proposed that the government increase companies' profitability by reducing tax rates to 33 percent.

Mandelbaum added that one of the major problems facing the local capital market this year is the lack of sophistication.

"You can't have a market that

goes up and down 10% within a few hours," he said. "In my opinion, it is necessary to implement the Bank of Israel's plans to spread the market concentration. It's an important condition for a stable market and an important tool for economic growth."

Kivun general manager Naftali Mendelovitz predicted a more selective capital market will develop during the summer, as independent private brokerage houses - similar to Kivun - capture a larger share of the capital market at the expense of the banks.

"This week, the public's redemption of mutual fund certificates dictated the behavior of the stock exchange," Mendelovitz said. "The rapid development of private brokerage firms managing investments of \$100m. to \$200m. will be able to operate under a selective investment policy."

"I predict private brokerage houses will take over management of mutual funds and provident funds from the banks. They will cooperate with the banks in the business, technical and marketing fields."

Kivun was recently established with the aim of managing investments of \$100m. to \$500m.

Regarding Nahshon, Mendelovitz said one doesn't have to sell its certificates to make a profit.

"The fund distributes profits every quarter," he said. "Investors' accounts will be credited every month with at least 50% of the fund's profits. Investors don't have to sell their investments to make profits from the bourse."

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**ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK**

## Katz: Electric Corp. should register net profits of some NIS 250m. in '94

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel Electric Corporation will end the year with a net profit of between NIS 250 million and NIS 300m., managing director Moshe Katz predicted yesterday.

Katz, speaking at a conference in Haifa for some 100 of the company's top employees, said the Electric Corp. invests more than \$1 billion annually in development plans.

He said the large investments will hinder profits in the future, and added that the company has to increase sales 6% annually to achieve a balanced budget.

Katz said the Electric Corp. predicts a small profit in 1995, but 1986 and 1987 will be difficult years.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**TAAS agrees to re-examine closing Jerusalem plant:** The management of TAAS (Israel Industries) yesterday agreed to re-examine its decision to close its Jerusalem plant, at the request of the Knesset finance committee. The plant was to be closed in December, since, according to a study by an outside consulting firm, it is not economically viable. After hearing data presented by the works committee, however, the finance committee asked management to re-examine the consulting firm's findings and report back to it before it takes any action.

**Government lowers borrowing requirements:** Rising tax revenues and interest rates have led the government to lower its borrowing requirements this month from NIS 1 billion to NIS 700 million, the Treasury reported yesterday. The Treasury will sell NIS 600m. in special non-tradeable bonds to the pension funds and insurance companies.

This, together with the tradeable bonds, will bring government borrowing to NIS 1.3b. this month. By contrast, the Treasury will repay NIS 2.4b. in bond redemptions, so the government will pay NIS 1.1b. more in obligations than it will borrow. Since the beginning of the year, the government has accumulated a budget surplus of NIS 1.79b.

**Deadline tomorrow on tender offer to InterPharm shareholders:** The deadline on the tender offer to InterPharm shareholders is tomorrow, and both sides are waiting to see who will blink first. At stake is a tender offer to InterPharm's 24 percent minority shareholders, made by the parent company, Swiss multinational Ares Seroio. The offer of \$22 per share was based on analysis done by US brokerage Tucker Anthony.

**Israel Phoenix Insurance announces rise in net profit:** Israel Phoenix Insurance has announced a 9.2 percent rise in first quarter net profits to NIS 15.4 million from NIS 14.1m. in the same period last year. Combined income on premiums was up 7% to NIS 633.7m. from NIS 591.2m. Earnings per share rose to NIS 1.67 from NIS 1.53.

**Business sector's payment record worsens in May:** The business sector's payment record worsened in May, as 23 percent of all companies paid their suppliers late compared with 15.8% in April. Dun and Bradstreet reported yesterday. The sector with the worst payment record was the metal and machinery industry with 30.6%. Contrasting with a close second at 30.5%, while the textile industry had the best record at 10%.

**Rotem Amert profits up 67%:** Rotem Amert Negev reported a 67 percent rise in first quarter net profit to \$1.5 million from \$900,000 during the same period last year. Sales rose to \$90m. from \$72m.

**IIS buys Adanet and MDS Adacom France:** IIS Intelligent Information Systems has purchased Adanet Communications and MDS Adacom France for \$2.3 million.

The acquisition, scheduled for completion by July 15, calls for mutual cooperation between Adacom and IIS to form a Europe-wide network integration and service network. Adanet Communications specializes in the marketing of networking products, integration services and represents SynOptics, 3Com, DCA and Crosscom. MDS Adacom France is a subsidiary dealing in sales and service of products for IBM environments.

**Maxima Air Separation sells holdings in Disposomic:** Maxima Air Separation Center sold its 33 percent holdings in Disposomic to a third party holding no previous interests. The firm will register a NIS 910,000 capital gain for the second quarter.

**Istamco shares fall 10%:** Istamco shares dropped 10 percent on the TASE after an announcement that there would be no feasibility test on its drilling site Jaffa 1 after having reached a depth of 4600 meters.

**Ratio Oil granted early clearance to test three locations:** The Energy and Infrastructure Ministry has granted Ratio Oil Exploration early clearance to test three locations. Zofar, the Dimona area and the basalt region in the North will undergo a new seismic survey, re-examination of existing fault lines, analysis of material and preparation of a drilling prospectus.

**Tadiran to introduce battle field mini-computer:** Tadiran is to introduce a pocket-sized niche computer terminal for use in information transfer under battle conditions. Field maps, battle coordinates, orders and other types of information can be transmitted through the set, which weighs less than 1.8 kilograms.

**Leumi offers new scheme for importers, commercial customers:** Bank Leumi yesterday announced it is offering a new scheme for importers and commercial customers. Leumi said commercial customers increasing banking activities with the bank will benefit from a significant reduction in commissions. Commercial customers that increase the number of deferred checks will benefit from a progressive return on commissions, of up to 70% of the commission.

## ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (\$6.94)			
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.750	4.125	4.625
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.500	3.750	4.375
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.125	4.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.250	3.375	3.500
Yen (10 million yen)	3.500	0.625	0.875

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shohet Foreign Exchange Rates* (\$6.94)			
Currency	Buy	Sell	Rate**
U.S. dollar	3.2500	3.2750	2.9140
U.S. dollar	3.0300	3.0750	2.9530
German mark	1.8217	1.8474	1.78
French franc	4.8938	4.9481	4.71
Japanese yen (100)	0.8941	0.9117	0.82
Dutch guilder	2.9772	2.9482	2.98
Swedish krona	1.8250	1.8478	1.80
Swiss franc	1.7551	1.7804	1.71
British pound	0.6514	0.6551	0.64
Spanish peseta	0.2524	0.2588	0.26
Norwegian krona	0.4205	0.4254	0.41
Denmark krone	0.4852	0.4718	0.48
Finnish mark	0.6514	0.6551	0.64
Canadian dollar	2.2078	2.2380	2.27
Australian dollar	2.2279	2.2583	2.27
S. African rand	0.8384	0.8592	0.85
Belgian franc (10)	0.8943	0.8987	0.87
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5871	2.6238	2.54
Italian lire (1000)	1.6761	1.6926	1.64
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.40
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.87
Israeli sheqel	3.442	3.5537	3.50
Yen bank	4.4874	4.5320	4.37
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2228	2.2540	2.21

\* Rates vary according to bank. \*\* Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



## Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.0530	-0.20%
Sterling	NIS 4.6096	+0.13%
Mark	NIS 1.6345	+0.19%

## NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

## New York market indexes

Index	Last	Change
DJ Industrial	3748.45	+4.46
DJ 30	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 100	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 200	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 400	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 600	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 800	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 1000	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 1200	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 1400	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 1600	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 1800	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 2000	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 2200	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 2400	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 2600	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 2800	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 3000	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 3200	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 3400	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 3600	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 3800	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 4000	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 4200	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 4400	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 4600	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 4800	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 5000	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 5200	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 5400	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 5600	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 5800	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 6000	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 6200	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 6400	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 6600	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 6800	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 7000	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 7200	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 7400	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 7600	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 7800	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 8000	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 8200	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 8400	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 8600	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 8800	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 9000	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 9200	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 9400	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 9600	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 9800	1015.32	+0.06
DJ 10000	1015.32	+0.06

## Unchanged Advances Declines

Share	1711	89	1147
Volume up (in 1000s)	7821		
Volume down (in 1000s)	13330		

## Other stock market indexes

Index	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3098.2	+0.12
Nikkei 225	12121.5	+10.1
DAX 30	2412.1	+0.1
Hang Seng	8511.1	+0.1

## Israeli stocks in NY

Index	Last	Change
NYSE AMEX	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 100	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 200	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 300	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 400	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 500	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 600	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 700	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 800	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 900	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 1000	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 1100	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 1200	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 1300	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 1400	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 1500	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 1600	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 1700	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 1800	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 1900	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 2000	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 2100	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 2200	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 2300	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 2400	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 2500	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 2600	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 2700	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 2800	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 2900	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 3000	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 3100	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 3200	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 3300	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 3400	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 3500	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 3600	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 3700	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 3800	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 3900	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 4000	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 4100	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 4200	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 4300	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 4400	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 4500	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 4600	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 4700	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 4800	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 4900	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 5000	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 5100	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 5200	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 5300	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 5400	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 5500	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 5600	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 5700	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 5800	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 5900	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 6000	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 6100	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 6200	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 6300	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 6400	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 6500	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 6600	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 6700	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 6800	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 6900	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 7000	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 7100	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 7200	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 7300	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 7400	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 7500	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 7600	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 7700	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 7800	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 7900	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 8000	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 8100	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 8200	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 8300	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 8400	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 8500	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 8600	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 8700	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 8800	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 8900	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 9000	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 9100	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 9200	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 9300	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 9400	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 9500	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 9600	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 9700	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 9800	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 9900	1015.32	+0.06
NYSE 10000	1015.32	+0.06

## Dollar crossrates (US)

Index	Last	Change
US dollar	1.0153	+0.0006
British pound	1.6345	+0.0013
Japanese yen	101.53	+0.0013
Swiss franc	1.6345	+0.0013
German mark	1.6345	+0.0013
French franc	1.6345	+0.0013
Italian lira	1.6345	+0.0013
Spanish peseta	1.6345	+0.0013
Portuguese escudo	1.6345	+0.0013
Belgian franc	1.6345	+0.0013
Dutch guilder	1.6345	+0.0013
Austrian schilling	1.6345	+0.0013
Swedish krona	1.6345	+0.0013
Norwegian krone	1.6345	+0.0013
Danish krone	1.6345	+0.0013
Finland mark	1.6345	+0.0013
Polish zloty	1.6345	+0.0013
Czech koruna	1.6345	+0.0013
Slovak koruna	1.6345	+0.0013
Slovenian tolar	1.6345	+0.0013
Croatian kuna	1.6345	+0.0013
Serbian dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Bosnian dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Montenegrin dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Albanian lek	1.6345	+0.0013
Moldovan leu	1.6345	+0.0013
Romanian leu	1.6345	+0.0013
Bulgarian lev	1.6345	+0.0013
Hungarian forint	1.6345	+0.0013
Czech koruna	1.6345	+0.0013
Slovak koruna	1.6345	+0.0013
Slovenian tolar	1.6345	+0.0013
Croatian kuna	1.6345	+0.0013
Serbian dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Bosnian dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Montenegrin dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Albanian lek	1.6345	+0.0013
Moldovan leu	1.6345	+0.0013
Romanian leu	1.6345	+0.0013
Bulgarian lev	1.6345	+0.0013
Hungarian forint	1.6345	+0.0013

## Labor rates

Index	Last	Change
US dollar	1.0153	+0.0006
British pound	1.6345	+0.0013
Japanese yen	101.53	+0.0013
Swiss franc	1.6345	+0.0013
German mark	1.6345	+0.0013
French franc	1.6345	+0.0013
Italian lira	1.6345	+0.0013
Spanish peseta	1.6345	+0.0013
Portuguese escudo	1.6345	+0.0013
Belgian franc	1.6345	+0.0013
Dutch guilder	1.6345	+0.0013
Austrian schilling	1.6345	+0.0013
Swedish krona	1.6345	+0.0013
Norwegian krone	1.6345	+0.0013
Danish krone	1.6345	+0.0013
Finland mark	1.6345	+0.0013
Polish zloty	1.6345	+0.0013
Czech koruna	1.6345	+0.0013
Slovak koruna	1.6345	+0.0013
Slovenian tolar	1.6345	+0.0013
Croatian kuna	1.6345	+0.0013
Serbian dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Bosnian dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Montenegrin dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Albanian lek	1.6345	+0.0013
Moldovan leu	1.6345	+0.0013
Romanian leu	1.6345	+0.0013
Bulgarian lev	1.6345	+0.0013
Hungarian forint	1.6345	+0.0013

## Foreign financial data courtesy of

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## NEW YORK COMMODITIES AND METALS

## US commodities

Index	Last	Change
US dollar	1.0153	+0.0006
British pound	1.6345	+0.0013
Japanese yen	101.53	+0.0013
Swiss franc	1.6345	+0.0013
German mark	1.6345	+0.0013
French franc	1.6345	+0.0013
Italian lira	1.6345	+0.0013
Spanish peseta	1.6345	+0.0013
Portuguese escudo	1.6345	+0.0013
Belgian franc	1.6345	+0.0013
Dutch guilder	1.6345	+0.0013
Austrian schilling	1.6345	+0.0013
Swedish krona	1.6345	+0.0013
Norwegian krone	1.6345	+0.0013
Danish krone	1.6345	+0.0013
Finland mark	1.6345	+0.0013
Polish zloty	1.6345	+0.0013
Czech koruna	1.6345	+0.0013
Slovak koruna	1.6345	+0.0013
Slovenian tolar	1.6345	+0.0013
Croatian kuna	1.6345	+0.0013
Serbian dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Bosnian dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Montenegrin dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Albanian lek	1.6345	+0.0013
Moldovan leu	1.6345	+0.0013
Romanian leu	1.6345	+0.0013
Bulgarian lev	1.6345	+0.0013
Hungarian forint	1.6345	+0.0013

## London commodities

Index	Last	Change
US dollar	1.0153	+0.0006
British pound	1.6345	+0.0013
Japanese yen	101.53	+0.0013
Swiss franc	1.6345	+0.0013
German mark	1.6345	+0.0013
French franc	1.6345	+0.0013
Italian lira	1.6345	+0.0013
Spanish peseta	1.6345	+0.0013
Portuguese escudo	1.6345	+0.0013
Belgian franc	1.6345	+0.0013
Dutch guilder	1.6345	+0.0013
Austrian schilling	1.6345	+0.0013
Swedish krona	1.6345	+0.0013
Norwegian krone	1.6345	+0.0013
Danish krone	1.6345	+0.0013
Finland mark	1.6345	+0.0013
Polish zloty	1.6345	+0.0013
Czech koruna	1.6345	+0.0013
Slovak koruna	1.6345	+0.0013
Slovenian tolar	1.6345	+0.0013
Croatian kuna	1.6345	+0.0013
Serbian dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Bosnian dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Montenegrin dinar	1.6345	+0.0013
Albanian lek	1.6345	+0.0013
Moldovan leu	1.6345	+0.0013
Romanian leu	1.6345	+0.0013
Bulgarian lev	1.6345	+0.0013
Hungarian forint	1.6345	+0.0013

## Spot market metals (US)

US dollar	1.0153	+0.0006
British pound	1.6345	+0.0013
Japanese yen	1.0000	+0.0007
Swiss franc	1.4135	+0.0013
German mark	1.7074	+0.0034
Yen	103.85	-0.19



# Euro Disney details rights issue, predicts lower losses

# Top central bankers optimistic

MARNE-LA-VALLEE, France—Troubled leisure park Euro Disney SCA yesterday announced details of its 6 billion franc (\$1.05b.) cash call and said it expected to post a reduced loss in the second half of the year.

Financial director Michael Montgomery told a special shareholders' meeting at one of the park's hotels that stock holders would have the right to buy seven new shares at 10 francs each for every two they currently hold.

"We have determined that the issue price should be 10 francs per share," he told the meeting.

Chairman Philippe Bourguignon said he expected the company to post a lower loss for the second half of the financial year to end-September 1994 than that of the previous second half.

The group had already announced a loss of 1.05b. francs (\$184m.) for the first half of 1993/94.

Euro Disney, plagued by disappointing attendance and high debt repayment costs, made a total loss of 5.34b. francs (\$938m.) for the 1993 financial year, of which

## News agencies

4.23b. (\$743m.) was made in the first half leaving a second-half loss of 1.1b. (\$193m.).

Montgomery said the company's bonus warrant issue to current shareholders would allow them to subscribe to a new share at 40 francs (\$7.02) each for every three warrants held.

Euro Disney said in May it would grant one free warrant to shareholders for each share held.

Montgomery said attendance at the theme park fell by 6% to 3.13 million during the first half of its 1993-94 financial year, which ended on March 31, while spending per guest fell by 7% to 229 francs (\$40.2) on average.

Bourguignon said that during the first half hotel occupancy was 48% compared with 37% during the first half of 1992/93. Spending per room totaled 906 francs (\$159) in the latest first half.

"Revenues declined 12 percent and this decline was mainly due to the performance of the park," Montgomery said.

Bourguignon later said the

theme park had 1.46 million visitors from April 1 to May 21 and the hotel occupancy rate in that period was 70%.

Euro Disney shares traded 0.50 francs lower in Paris at 36.00 francs at 1010 GMT, after earlier reaching a low of 33.00 francs.

In a rare move yesterday, Paris stock regulating authorities issued a warning to shareholders on the prospectus cover stating that the company isn't expected to show a profit before fiscal 1996.

Even after restructuring, Euro Disney will have 16b. francs (\$2.8b.) of consolidated debt, or nearly triple the shareholder equity.

The restructuring plan, reached between Euro Disney and 61 creditor banks in March, includes forgiveness on interest payments and some fees and royalties by the Walt Disney Co., which owns 49% of the stock.

Last week, Saudi Prince al-Waleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz said he and United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB), which he chairs, would take a stake of between 13 and 24% in Euro Disney.

LONDON (Reuters) — The world's top central bankers said yesterday that inflation pressures in their economies were subdued, encouraging hopes of sustained economic recovery in industrialized nations.

The central bankers from the US, Japan, Germany, France and Britain, gathered in London for the annual International Monetary Conference, were in an upbeat mood.

Their attitude may help calm jangled nerves in world financial markets, which have been under heavy pressure this year on fears inflation may be on the way back.

"I hope and expect that the (German) inflation rate will go down further," said Hans Tietmeyer, President of the German Bundes-

bank, the bank which effectively sets interest rates across Europe.

The soothing words on price pressures were echoed by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, which has alarmed financial markets this year by pushing up US interest rates.

Greenspan said US inflation was "clearly restrained" but refused to be drawn on future interest rates trends.

Bank of France governor Jean-Claude Trichet said he expected French inflation to stick at two percent or less over the next few years. Bank of Japan governor Yasushi Mieno said Japanese prices were stable.

The central bankers' comments

come just a day after top US and European officials attending the annual meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris made similar remarks in a bid to calm nervous financial markets.

Many economists are concerned inflation fears have pushed up bond yields too far this year, raising the cost of long-term capital and threatening to derail economic growth.

The upbeat outlook on prices will help support hopes the world economy is set to enjoy a sustained period of growth in the late 1990s, with central bankers ready to act pre-emptively if price pressures emerge.

Economic forecasters at the OECD are projecting gross domestic product will grow 2.6% in the industrialized world in 1994, rising to 2.9% in 1995. They also expect inflation to remain low, at around 2.1% this year and 2.3% in 1995.

Bundesbank President Tietmeyer welcomed a "classical German recovery" based on stronger exports and said the recovery was set to become more broadly based.

Improvement was noted in the Japanese economy, as it struggles to emerge from a recent deep recession. "Fundamentals are clearly getting better and there are better conditions for a recovery," a leading Japanese banker said.

## Highlights of OECD communique

PARIS (Reuters) — The following are highlights of the communique released yesterday at the annual meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Member ministers:

- agreed that signs of economic recovery are taking root, improving the growth outlook through 1995, but recognized that further policy measures are necessary;
- branded unemployment as an unacceptable human waste and called job creation a very high priority;
- rejected protectionism of any kind;
- pledged to macroeconomic and structural policies that ensure strong, sustainable, non-inflationary growth;
- stressed the importance of cutting budget deficits over the medium-term;
- agreed that further exchange-rate cooperation helps the growth outlook;
- underlined that monetary policy must remain vigilant where recovery is underway and should ease in economies where recovery is not yet sustained;
- pledged to enhance labor market flexibility;
- committed to the need for a social safety net as members adapt to the changing needs of today's economy;
- celebrated the signing of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) treaty and welcomed the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- pledged to ensure there are no delays in ratification of GATT treaty and the WTO enters into force on January 1, 1995;
- agreed to shun practices inconsistent with free trade;
- welcomed Mexico, which took



US Secretary of State Warren Christopher talks to Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev after Kozyrev signed an agreement with the OECD in Paris yesterday. (AP)

part in the OECD meeting for the first time as a full-time member.

- committed to extend contact with non-members that are gaining relevance in the world economy;
- welcomed South Korea's intention to join the OECD by the end of 1996.

- endorsed early membership negotiations for the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia;
- welcomed a new cooperation pact between the OECD and Russia aimed at bolstering its reform efforts;
- agreed on continued support for other nations in transition and to a broadened understand-

- ing of China;
- committed to help developing nations, especially the poorest in sub-Saharan Africa, build up infrastructure;
- recognized the risks and benefits of "increased globalization" and pledged their best efforts to ensure sustained development and social progress.

## Jordan says economy is healthy

AMMAN (Reuters) — Jordan's balance of trade has shown some positive indicators in the first quarter of 1994, including a drop in imports and an increase in exports, the Central Bank governor said.

Mohammad Said al-Nabulsi said economic growth this year could meet the 5 to 6% target while inflation would remain around 5%.

"The initial picture for the first five months of this year is a satisfactory one," Nabulsi told reporters on Tuesday.

However, he said remittances from Jordanians working abroad and Western aid pledged to help the economic restructuring agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, had dropped this year.

Exports, mainly potash, phosphates and industrial goods, rose 20% in the first quarter of 1994, compared with the same period last year, Nabulsi said.

Imports of potash and phosphates, Jordan's main hard currency earners, dropped sharply last year because of political turmoil sweeping markets in the former Soviet Union and a drop in purchases by India, a main importer.

Imports fell around 7 to 10% during the same period compared with last year. Hard currency

earnings from tourism were increasing.

Nabulsi said import and export trends could change in coming months.

Some economists said several traders, who delayed imports because of uncertainty over a new sales tax that took effect on June 1, had delayed shipments.

Others linked the drop in imports to a general economic slowdown, sparked mainly by uncertainty over Middle East peace talks and Jordan's future economic links to Palestinians.

Nabulsi said remittances by Jordanian expatriates fell around 15% in the early months of 1994, compared with the same period last year.

Expatriates, mostly Jordanians of Palestinian origin who work in oil-rich Arab Gulf states, send around \$1.2 billion a year to families back home.

However, remittances in the last two years exceeded that normal level because many of the more than 300,000 Jordanians forced to leave Kuwait by the 1990 Gulf crisis transferred all their savings to Amman.

This sparked a one-time boom in construction and real estate trade, a main factor in the record economic growth of nearly 11% in

1992. Since last September, trading on the Amman stock market has been stagnant.

Nabulsi said Jordan was expected to open talks with the Paris Club of Western official creditors on June 28 or 29 to reschedule \$420 million in interest and principal on maturing debts.

Jordan, with a foreign debt of nearly \$7.0b. last year began a six-year economic reform program.

Jordan's foreign exchange reserves are around \$500m. — enough for two-months of exports — after standing at over \$1.0b. last year. Officials say Jordan spent \$400m. to \$500m. to buy back debts and settle debt payments.

Nabulsi said a flow of promised official foreign capital had dropped by nearly \$100m. this year, mainly because Jordan had not taken measures attached to these funds.

"This drop is not all the fault of the creditor and donor countries," Nabulsi said. "We take a lot of blame for that because we have not carried out projects or programs that we committed ourselves to under these plans."

The government has not acted on politically sensitive issues such as raising the price of water and electricity to reform these sectors and get support funds.

## Hong Kong tries to cool hot property market

HONG KONG (Reuters) — The Hong Kong government yesterday unveiled its long-awaited package of measures to cool the red-hot property market, revealing plans to increase supply and to clamp down on speculators.

Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands Tony Eason said stronger measures remained in reserve should they be needed, although he ruled out punitive taxes.

"We must address public concern about property prices but at the same time adopt measures which will not damage the economy," Eason told the Legislative Council.

Rocketing home prices are of intense concern to Hong Kong people wondering if they will ever own a home. An average-size family flat of 46 sq. meters in a mid-class area was advertised yesterday for HK \$2.7 million (\$350,000).

Officials and economists also fear businesses will be forced to move to countries where employees can afford homes.

The government's measures include raising the initial sales deposit on new flats to 10% from 5% of the value and outlawing the resale of uncompleted flats before they are "assigned."

At present, unfinished flats can change hands many times before completion and before formal as-

signment of a specific flat to a specific buyer. Small sales deposits also make it cheaper for speculators to play the market.

The period during which forward sales are allowed would be cut to nine months before assignment to dampen opportunities for speculation, and the amount which a buyer who reneges on a deal would forfeit will be increased to 5% of the purchase price from 3%.

The quota on the numbers of uncompleted flats which developers are allowed to pre-sell to employees and associates has also been slashed to 10% from 50%.

Eason said the government has found 70 more hectares (175 acres) of land to be released to residential developers, subject to approval by the Sino-British Land Commission.

The commission monitors all land released before the colony's handover to China in 1997.

The government also aimed to create 45,000 to 60,000 additional flats before the year 2001.

Property analysts welcomed the package, predicting speculators would be forced somewhat out of the market, but they also warned that the fundamental problem of growing demand and limited supply remained.

"I think it will stop us seeing the mad surges that we've seen before," said Lyall Alexander-Webster of property consultancy Vigers.

## Copper hits new highs

LONDON (Reuters) — Copper prices soared to their highest in 1½ years yesterday and analysts said they were likely to rise even further as demand picks up in major industrial economies.

Prices on the London Metal Exchange (LME) were \$2,343 a ton in afternoon trading, up more than \$60 from Tuesday's close and the highest since the beginning of 1993.

Traders and analysts said \$2,400 was the next target.

"Over the last week or two it has been ranging, but once it went through \$2,260 it triggered short-covering and fresh buying. The initial target is \$2,400, I suppose," William Adams of LME brokers Rudolf Wolff and Co. said.

The market has risen over 23% since May and almost 50% from last autumn's six-year lows.

Analysts said the impetus for the rise came from speculative buying, though the fundamental picture had been sound for some time.

LME inventories, which ballooned as recession bit in the early 1990s, have fallen by nearly 39% from January's 16-year highs of 617,800 tons and are now at their lowest for 14 months.

Even though these levels are comparatively high, much of the metal is tied up in long-term financing deals or has already been bought by consumers.



Japan's Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata smiles after the Lower House Budget Committee approved the long overdue national budget for the 1994 fiscal year. (AP)

## Telefraud: A fast-growing but preventable crime

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The phone rings, usually around dinner time, and the caller says: "Boy, have I got a deal for you." Sometimes it is a deal, but sometimes the telephone hawker is offering a bridge in Brooklyn or swampland in Florida.

There's a danger, especially when credit card numbers are given out, that you can be had — a victim of fraud, maybe for a few dollars or maybe for your life savings.

The telephone has become a prime method in the US for scam artists who look to make money off an unsuspecting public. According to government officials, telephone fraud is the fastest-growing illegal activity in the country.

Telephone scam artists often work out of makeshift offices, known as boiler rooms, and move from place to place when

their trail gets hot. Telemarketing fraud has grown to major proportions in recent years, according to the National Consumers League.

The Washington-based non-profit organization estimates that telemarketing fraud is valued at anywhere from \$10 billion to \$40 billion a year. It said precise figures are unavailable because many victims never report or under-report their losses.

Scam artists tend to choose their victims carefully. They usually target the most vulnerable — pensioners, the disabled, the poor and recent immigrants with a poor command of English and American culture.

They will offer free trips or invitations to sales presentations at resort communities in return for discounted or free vacation packages. They will "sell" jewelry or investment schemes or alumi-

num siding for houses.

Calling telemarketing the "consumer plague of the 90s," the Federal Trade Commission's consumer protection acting-director Christian White cites the importance of credit cards.

"Credit cards are the lifeblood of fraudulent telemarketers. If consumers learn not to give their credit card numbers to telephone con artists, the flow of money to the crooks will shrink," White said.

But how do you differentiate a scam artist from a legitimate salesman? Many legitimate companies, non-profit organizations and business groups use telephone sales as a primary source of funding and can be confused with unscrupulous operators.

The National Fraud Information Center, a project of the Consumers League, offers simple advice.

When in doubt, "just hang up the phone," said John Barker, director of the NFIC and a vice president of the National Consumers League.

"It's the easiest kind of crime to avoid," he said. "Don't give account numbers to people you don't know over the phone."

When a credit card number is used, and it is found that the transaction was a scam, it could take as long as three months to track down the fraud. By that time, the money has been paid and the crook may have moved shop across town or across the country.

NFIC advises that before consumers buy into phone sales pitches, they check them out with the center's data bank. Barker said 60 percent of the center's inquiries involved people who had not yet been victimized but were concerned about the validity of the offer.

When a caller reports fraud, and Barker emphasized that the vast majority of victims never report it, the center advises him or her on which law enforcement agencies to contact.

The center is linked to the Federal Trade Commission's fraud operation data base.

The FTC has brought more than 100 federal lawsuits against fraudulent telemarketing schemes and has stopped frauds estimated to have caused over \$250,000. It has returned more than \$800 million to consumers bilked by scams, the center said.

Legislation called the Federal Telemarketing Fraud Act is pending, which, when combined with education, will "ultimately lead to the elimination of this fraudulent virus," said Maryland Attorney General J. Joseph Curran Jr.

## WORLD BRIEFS

Europe's airlines show record losses: The European airline industry yesterday reported record losses in 1993 despite booming traffic growth at the cheap end of the market.

The Association of European Airlines (AEA) said in a statement that its members' operating losses edged up to \$2.24 billion at current values from \$2.22b. in 1992.

AEA Secretary-General Karl-Heinz Neumeister said he thought there would be some improvement this year in the financial results of the 24-member association, helped by further strong passenger demand. *Reuters*

US not planning sanctions against Japan: US Commerce Secretary Ron Brown said yesterday it would not have immediate plans to impose trade sanctions on Japan but that he could not rule out the possibility.

He told reporters at an international economic conference here that it would be "irresponsible" for the Clinton administration not to tackle Japan's \$131b. trade surplus, saying there was a "serious problem" in the bilateral relationship. *Reuters*

Ferruzzi treasures auctioned off: Paintings, furnishings and ornaments, luxurious trappings of power accumulated by Italy's disgraced Ferruzzi family before their business empire fell, are being swept up by well-heeled trophy hunters at a Milan auction.

More than 500 people packed tight into Sotheby's auction rooms on Tuesday night for the first of three night sessions which look certain sell out.

"It was fantastic. Out of 227 lots offered, only three were left at the end of the night," said Sotheby's Wanda Rotelli. *Reuters*

ENI back into profits: Italian state energy group Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi SpA (ENI), slated for privatization within the next 18 months, said yesterday it had pushed back into profit in 1993 and expected even better results this year.

ENI announced a \$260 million profit for 1993 after posting a \$510m. loss the year before. Turnover rose 8% to \$36.8b. *Reuters*

Condom king posts losses: The world's leading condom maker, London International Group, reported a £175m. loss for the year yesterday after huge restructuring charges, but said it was now ready to start making money again.

It also tapped the market with a one-for-one rights issue at 70 pence a share, raising £115m.

The cash will be used to cut debt, restore shareholders' funds and invest in its core "thin film barrier" business — condoms, including the Durex and Protex brands, and surgical gloves. *Reuters*

Racal profits fall: Racal Electronics Plc, part of the consortium which won the bid for Britain's national lottery, announced a drop in full-year pre-tax profit yesterday but promised that current year results would improve substantially.

Pre-tax profits in the year to March 31 slumped to £26.4m. from £47.7m. after £19.6m. of losses on disposals and goodwill write offs.

Turnover was down slightly at £887m. from £909m., though the dividend was held unchanged at last year's 4.25 pence per share. *Reuters*

NTT, Silicon Graphics sign multimedia pact: Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. said yesterday it would tie up with Silicon Graphics Inc. (SGI) of the US to develop interactive multimedia services.

NTT president Masashi Kojima said they will develop both hardware and software to provide video on demand, home shopping, long-distance education and medical consultations and a variety of other services.

"We chose Silicon Graphics as our multimedia partner because of their overwhelming strength in technology of processing three-dimensional graphics," he said. *Reuters*

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Shira Shikrik



## Philippine FM finds he can't get workers into construction

PHILIPPINE Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo says he received the runaround during his visit here this week, when he sought permission for his country to receive a slice of Israel's foreign construction worker labor market.

In a joint interview with *The Jerusalem Post* and Israel Radio yesterday, Romulo was otherwise very upbeat on relations between the two countries, saying he believed Israel could provide Manila with technological assistance. He also said his country was considering purchasing the Kfir fighter jet.

Romulo's five-day visit was the first by a Filipino foreign minister to Israel. He indicated that he felt the Philippines was being discriminated against when it came to dispatching foreign workers. He said "it was like watching a tennis match," because Labor Minister Ora Namir referred him to the Israel Contractors Association, while the latter referred him back to the government.

"When it comes to implementation, the [Israeli] government may have abdicated some of its policy

DAVID MAKOVSKY

to the construction and agricultural organizations.... All I can say is it is my hope that Israel or the quasi-regulatory bodies called 'associations' will apply the law equally," he said.

Romulo said he discussed the issue with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during meetings this week. After Romulo's meeting with the premier, Rabin's office put out a statement suggesting Rabin would not intervene in the matter.

"Economic cooperation must be dealt with by the private sector," Rabin's office said.

In April, after the Afula and Hadera car bombings, the cabinet voted to import 20,000 foreign workers to help the construction sector cope with the closure of the territories. Construction workers are due here from Portugal, Turkey, and Poland, but not the Philippines.

Hanan Rubin, Labor Ministry

spokesman, confirmed that Romulo was informed that the selection of the foreign workers is outside of Namir's purview. "The government decides on how many workers can come, but not where they come from. Their origin is actually up to manpower organizations who deal with the Israel Contractors Association."

The spokesman said that approximately 2,500 Filipinos work in Israel as nurses or maids.

In the interview, Romulo, who ran IBM's Philippine branch before becoming a diplomat, demonstrated keen interest in Israel's technology as a basis for cooperation. "The Philippines is interested in Israeli technology in areas such as agriculture and agro-industry," he said. He welcomed Israeli businesses to set up operations in Manila. "We can provide Israeli businesses with a gateway for the dynamic Asia-Pacific."

Israel is most interested in selling the Philippines the Kfir fighter jet, and Romulo spent time meeting with Israel Aircraft Industries this week to discuss the possibility.



A settler and a policeman exchange views yesterday as representatives of the Association of Trans-Israel Highway settlements blocked junctions to protest what they called the government's "lack of concern for the damage to our livelihoods and quality of life that will be caused by the building of the road." (Israel Sun Ltd.)

## Maccabi health fund to set up labor federation

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Maccabi health fund has decided to establish a "Maccabi Labor Federation" to which health fund members would pay an organization tax, instead of to the Histadrut.

Maccabi said yesterday that "in light of the decision by political bodies in Israel to link the implementation of the national health insurance bill to the existence of an organization tax and the refusal of existing professional unions to provide such services to Maccabi members, we have decided to establish our own labor federation."

The new labor federation, said Maccabi, would be an efficient, professional body and not an overwhelming bureaucracy. Registration for the new body has already begun. The Maccabi federation will supply a variety of

services, including supplementary health insurance (beyond regular health insurance provided by Maccabi as a health fund); basic geriatric nursing care, a variety of preventive medicine programs, including smoking cessation, dieting and exercise; day-care centers for the elderly; preparation for retirement and pension planning; and discounts on various products and services.

Meanwhile, the Meuhedet health fund has begun to charge for health services that previously were free. These include mammographies for women under 50 (if there is no medical indication of breast cancer), physiotherapy and occupational therapy for children. Dr. Yisrael Ben-Bassat, the as-

sistant to the director-general of the Meuhedet health fund, admitted that it was conforming to the basket of services of the Histadrut's Kupat Holim Clalit. He noted that when the national health insurance bill is implemented, all the health funds will offer the same coverage, "although the differences will show up in the quality of these services."

Meuhedet members under 50 who want a routine mammography but have no history or sign of breast cancer have to pay NIS 60, unless their doctor gives her a referral note; until now, it was free at all ages even without a referral.

A Leumi health fund spokesman said, however, that it has not yet increased or expanded "self-participation" in costs for its own members.

## Histadrut executive holds first post-election meet

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut's executive committee is to convene for the first time today after the Histadrut elections, looming under the shadow of the mass dismissals being threatened by the new leadership.

The committee is to ratify the date of the Histadrut convention, set for June 29, at which the power in the Histadrut will be transferred from Labor to Ram, the Ramon-Meretz-Shas list.

Ram leaders yesterday presented Labor's Histadrut faction heads with a 25-page document specifying proposed reforms in the Histadrut. These ranged from personnel and department cutbacks, to changing the terms "va'ad hapoei" (executive committee) and "labor councils" to terms Ram considers more modern.

Parts of the document are copied directly from Ram's platform. These include the chapter concerning the introduction of religious activities in Histadrut institutions, adopted after Shas joined the list.

The workers at Histadrut headquarters held an emergency meeting to protest Ram's threats of dismissals, especially in the fee collection department, whose 600 employees would become superfluous once the national health insurance law severs the forced link between the Histadrut and its Kupat Holim Clalit.

The workers spoke of "an atmosphere of terrorism" and "looming executions." Acting secretary-

general Meir Gatt said at the meeting that "if they [Ramon's faction] start a bloodshed of dismissals here, I fear this house will cave in and collapse from within."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will today meet with Gatt, Labor Party Secretary-General Nissim Zivli, and Shlomo Avitan, the head of Labor's negotiating team in charge of labor councils and organization, in an effort to resolve the stalemate in the coalition negotiations.

The talks have stalled over the issue of the Labor-Likud agreements made at a number of labor councils. Ram will not continue the negotiations until Labor cancels them, while Labor wants Ram

to cancel its agreements with the Likud first.

Outgoing Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld may not be able to attend today's executive committee meeting, as by yesterday he had still not been released from hospital after surgery.

Histadrut comptroller Natfali Blumenthal presented Ram leaders with a summary of several reports he had published in previous years, including recommendations he believes were never acted upon.

These include publicizing the wages of Histadrut senior officials, concentrating the labor federation's budget into one central report, and having a professional company manage the Histadrut's assets.

## Police fear gang members may intimidate alleged rape victim

RAINE MARCUS

A GANG of immigrants from the Caucasus suspected of raping and sexually assaulting a sixteen-year-old girl appeared in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday, but when the judge released two of them and placed two under house arrest, police said they feared they would intimidate the girl into withdrawing her complaint.

Seven men in their early twenties were arrested by Ayalon detectives last week after police received complaints of rape and blackmail. Police alleged the gang operated along Bat Yam's coast, raping and then blackmailing immigrant youths and young women.

Judge Dan Arbel saw fit to release or place under house arrest four of them when he ruled that the blackmail allegations were nothing more than "child's play."

"What are we working for?" said a detective after the ruling. "We are trying to protect the public from the terror of this type of gang. Now all our work is for nothing."

The detective said he feared for a complainant's life. "We are dealing with a different mentality here with different codes," he added. "I don't think the judge understands this."

Police said in court that Alexander Bengayeb forced Alexander Rozayeb to pay for restaurant meals for 15 people as a fine for raping the girl.

Several people who testified to police have now withdrawn their statements, for fear of retribution by the gang, who allegedly demanded money from them. One woman failed to appear in court to testify. Another girl was raped in a Holon parking lot, and detectives have not yet traced her, police said.

The gang allegedly blackmailed other immigrants for small sums of money for a variety of trivial reasons, said police.

One complainant said that a gang member had threatened to kill her if she cooperated with police.

In releasing two of the suspects and placing two of them under house arrest, Arbel said that evidence to suggest rape allegations was insufficient.

Regarding suspects Mark Segal and David Steinman, Arbel ruled that allegations were "more serious" and police had sufficient evidence to warrant their detention. Together with Rozayeb they were remanded for six days.

## Lock-up time may be deducted from sentence

DAN IZENBERG

THE Knesset, ignoring the objections of Justice Minister David Liba'i, yesterday approved in preliminary reading a bill deducting time from the sentences of convicted criminals incarcerated in police lockups rather than prisons.

The bill, initiated by Dov Shilansky (Likud), passed by a majority of 18 to 9. It stipulates that every day spent in lockup will be regarded as 1 1/2 days for the purpose of determining when the punishment has been completed.

"The life in a lockup is 100 times harder than in prison," said Shilansky. "Therefore, anyone serving time there endures in less time the portion of suffering which the

judge wanted to hand out."

Liba'i disagreed. "There are many people who would prefer to serve their term in a police facility rather than in prison," he said. "In many instances, they manage better there; they have the opportunity to see their families and use the telephone. They are called 'work prisoners' and their circumstances are often better than those incarcerated in prison."

Liba'i warned that regular prisoners would petition the High Court of Justice claiming unequal treatment, if they were forced to stay in jail longer than other criminals given identical sentences but sent to lockups to serve their time.

## Call for control of goods from areas

DAVID RUDGE

ISRAELI Arab leaders are calling on the government to restrict the sale inside the Green Line of certain products manufactured by Palestinians in the autonomous regions.

"It's clear that with the cheaper labor costs, there are certain products that can be manufactured much cheaper in Gaza and the West Bank than here," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the Forum of Arab Council Heads.

Suleiman, who is also chairman of the Mash'ad local council near Nazareth, said they were concerned that if such products flood local markets, this could force the closure of some firms inside the Green Line, with attendant loss of jobs.

A recent survey by the Haifa and north branch of the Manufacturers Association revealed that as many as 4,000 jobs could be lost over three years as a result of competition with firms in the territories.

Suleiman noted that Israeli Arabs compose the bulk of the work force in labor-intensive companies, especially textile firms and those involved in producing materials for the building trade.

"We intend to call on the government to take steps that would prevent unfair competition and limit the sale of such products on the local market in order to preserve jobs," he said. "In the same vein, we asked the government not to allow foreign workers for the building trade because of the effect it would have on the Israeli Arab sector."

"Furthermore, we are stepping up our struggle to press for the urgent establishment of industrial zones in Arab towns and villages, to encourage industrial development and help provide jobs in the communities," he added.

## Stiffer wire tapping penalty proposed

EVELYN GORDON

THE ministerial committee on legislation yesterday approved a bill stiffening the penalty for wire-tapping and redefining the crime to include modern communications systems.

However, the bill also allows courts to accept information gleaned from illegal wiretaps as evidence in exceptional cases, if the court decides that the need to see justice done in a particular case outweighs the damage to individual rights.

The bill would increase the penalty for electronic eavesdropping to a maximum of five years in prison, from the current three years.

It also stipulates that a private investigator found guilty of illegal wiretapping will be deprived of his license. The bill expands the crime to include listening in on communications via radio-telephone, mobile phone, fax, teleprinter or computer, and requires the police minister to publicize the number of wiretaps performed by the police each year.

## KNESSET BRIEFS

### Cable viewers may skip IBA fee

Cable television subscribers will not have to pay the Israel Broadcasting Authority television licensing fee, according to a private members' bill initiated by Ron Nahman (Likud) which passed preliminary reading yesterday.

Nahman argued that 70 percent of cable television subscribers used their transmitters to watch Channel 1 and 2, and were therefore paying twice for the same service.

### Ministers will have to leave House

The Knesset passed in preliminary reading a bill stipulating that MKs appointed to the cabinet will have to give up their Knesset seats for as long as they serve as ministers. The bill, known as "the Norwegian law," seeks to strengthen the legislature by fully separating it from the executive and increasing the number of full-time Knesset members.

Dan Izenberg

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## Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, ten of hearts, ace of diamonds and ace of clubs.

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